# MONTEREY NEWS

May 2022 Est. 1970
Vol. LII · Number 5


Pick up at: the library (in and outside), outside town hall, transfer station

Select board candidates Susan Cooper (D) and Jeremy Rawitz (R)

Finance committee candidates Frank Abbott (D) and Roger Tryon (R)

## Town Meeting

### Saturday, May 7, at 9:30 a.m., firehouse pavilion

Town Meeting Information - Budget notes, proposals, bylaws, and considerations.
pages 2 through 6

But for several years, there was an air of uncertainty, a feeling of impermanence about South Tyringham. The meeting house, for which the settlers had been taxed, was only partially built.
History of Monterey at 175 page 22

## Town Elections

### Tuesday, May 10, noon to 7p.m., at town hall


Candidates list page 7
Candidates statements pages 7 to 10
Letters of endorsements pages 10 to 13
Candidates written forum pages 14 to 18


Absentee ballots are available by contacting the town clerk.

Do you have a special dish that has a strong tie to our town?
Recipes Requested page 25

The Monterey Finance Committee will hold an informational public hearing on the town budget included in the warrant on Tuesday, May 3, at 6 p.m.
FY 2023 Budget page 3

This year's overall budget is increasing by 7.9%. However, our tax rate will not increase.
In My View- 2023 Budget page 2

Volunteers from Hume will serve hot dogs, sodas, and ice cream provided by the town. We'll gather for an aerial photograph of the townspeople to be taken behind the fire station.
Memorial Day Parade page 18

Walter Parks was the finest of fish, just as big as life itself in our small pond, predation be damned.
Big Fish, Small Pond page 27

Lady V, Ting Ting, and Butterbread will soon be journeying, cloistered, from Minneapolis to Monterey. Fettered enough by the prospect of disruptive, over-land travel, they are considerably over-preening at the prospect of arriving coop-less.
Letter to Monterey page 23

I am also responsible for sitting on the Regional School District Planning Board (RSDPB). To learn more about the possible models, go to 8towns.org.
School District Report page 6

Lin Saberski

## In My View

### 2023 Budget

The budget for this coming fiscal year has been completed and will be presented to the voters of Monterey at our annual town meeting on May 7.

As with previous years, this budget wasn't easy. As I wrote in February's *Monterey News*, budgeting during Covid years is difficult. You must give town departments enough funds to provide adequate services in a Covid environment and in a post-Covid environment. Add to that a dramatic increase in inflation and fuel costs, unfunded mandates from the Commonwealth, and supply chain disruptions, and you have one of the most challenging budgetary environments that Monterey has ever experienced.

The select board and the finance committee worked well together this year. Importantly, we did not waste any time debating "*Who controls the budget?*" (which is very, very silly, by the way). We just got to work. I personally thank the finance committee chair, Michelle Miller, for her leadership.

This year's overall budget is increasing by 7.9%. However, our tax rate will not increase.

In addition to the general economic conditions that I mentioned above, here are some of our budgetary hurtles.

School Budget: (over 10% increase!) Monterey has little control over the school budget. We can vote it down, however the other towns would have to participate in the same action. From what we are aware, the school budget reflects the same inflationary/economic challenges that Monterey has. *(Editor's note: See Laura Rodriquez's report on the school committee on page 6.)*

Fuel Costs: Fuel costs have regularly exceeded budgeted amounts for several years. This year, Monterey will face dramatically increased fuel costs. Therefore, we have no option but to increase the amount raised and appropriated for fuel.

Police: The Commonwealth has adopted several police reform initiatives (many of which are unfunded mandates at the state level). This includes the elimination of the academy for part-time police officers. Therefore, the availability of part-time police officers will decrease, while the demand for full-time officers will increase. In order to provide police for shifts, Monterey (and other towns) will need to bring on at least one more full-time officer. Any full-time employee requires health insurance and benefits. Hence, an increase in the police budget.

Fire: The shift program was adopted by the Monterey Fire Company and past select boards to provide adequate staffing for fire/emergency services. Instead of adding shifts all at once, Chief Tryon agreed to gradually add them as needed. The increase reflects this.

Operations: Our town's infrastructure (roads, bridges, culverts, etc.) are essential to the safety of town residents. Equipment costs and material costs always rise. This year's supply chain issues made matters worse. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Shawn Tryon and Jim Hunt for keeping the increased costs in check.

Town assistant (new line-item): Town hall operations get increasingly more difficult with each passing year. After receiving several requests, the select board and town administrator decided that it was time to provide more support to the various departments that serve all of us.

Select board secretary (new line-item): The select board has decided to reintroduce a select board secretary position, to help manage the vast amount of public information that the board generates and to keep public bodies in compliance with disclosure rules.

Cost-of-Living-Adjustments (COLA): Monterey is lucky to have a terrific group of dedicated and hard-working employees. The challenge for every employer is to recognize and fairly compensate employees, keeping in mind that the cost of living has risen dramatically for them and the taxpayers of our town. Next year, we should have a professional human resource manager to assist in this analysis. This year, a 3.8% COLA increase has been offered to all employees.

These are some of the highlights of what is driving our budget. It is important to understand that the members of the select board and the finance committee are taxpayers as well. No one likes to pay more taxes! In a town the size of Monterey, the challenge is to:

•Preserve and maintain the infrastructure we have,

•Plan and grow for the future, and

•Keep the town safe and affordable.

Every budget (and budget participant…including you) must provide for all three, or our town will quickly deteriorate.

I certainly enjoyed working on this budget for you. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to myself; Michele Miller, finance committee chair; or Melissa Noe, town administrator.

— Steven Weisz
Chair, Monterey Select Board

The *Monterey News* is published monthly by The Monterey News Inc, PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245-0009.

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## Letters
### FY 2023 Budget meeting

Neighbors,

The Monterey Finance Committee will hold an informational public hearing on the town budget included in the warrant on Tuesday, May 3, at 6 p.m. We expect to be joined by the select board. The meeting will be held on Zoom as well as in person. The meeting location will be posted on the town website. To read the agenda and how to join the meeting, go to the town website, montereyma.gov, click on "Boards and Commissions," and open the finance committee page and agendas.

You may have received the warrant in the mail to review. It is also available on the town website through the search bar on the home page. Enter "2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant." Please review the budget and come with questions.

It has been said that the budget should have been cut 5% across the board to avoid increased spending. In fact, this would not have yielded any significant savings as the biggest increases are not up to us. These include school, retirement fund, and health insurance obligations. In addition, we see in our daily lives the impact of higher fuel costs, supply chain disruptions (yes, they are real), increased demand for services and difficulty in filling town positions. In a town of such good fortune as Monterey it would be wrong to not take care of the employees we depend on by offering some cost of living allowances. After much discussion a consensus was reached on 3.8% COLA. Some think it too low and some too high.

Please know that many hours and considerations are reflected in this budget, which I think is a fair representation of the needs of Monterey. If you don't like what you see please attend our meeting and come to the first meeting after the election to help set the agenda at the beginning of the year. Our agenda is set to focus on the capital plan.

Thanks,

—Michele Miller, Chair
Monterey Finance Committee

***ARTICLE 31. CITIZEN PETITION***
*Shall the Town of Monterey be required to reduce the amount of real estate and personal property taxes to be assessed for the fiscal year beginning July first, 2022 by an amount equal to $500,000?*

*For a less-than-three-minute video by the state, go to tiny.cc/Over-underrides.*

## Letters
### Article 31–"Underride"

What the heck is an "underride?" Certainly not a Disney ride.

I am writing as a voter rather than a representative of the finance committee.

When I first heard of the citizens petition on the town meeting warrant I was confused as we all might be by the true meaning of this scheme.

This is an "underride," a little-used device to reduce the tax levy and prevent "overspending." There is too much here to unpack in a short time but the opinion of the town accountant is that adopting this measure would damage Monterey's bond rating unnecessarily for no gain.

The fact that this approach is being put forth at the last minute without ever having been brought before the select board or finance committee abuses the process of the citizens petition much as the multiple specious citizens petitions did last year. At last year's meeting those petitions took many hours and many words to accomplish very little. The conclusion was that policy should not be drafted or voted on at town meeting. I hope the petitioners will withdraw their request and bring it forth again for serious consideration at the new select board.

—Michele Miller

## Letters
### Article 31–"Underride"

I must admit that in my six years in Monterey government, I had never heard of an "underride." After doing some research, I now understand why. Underrides are not commonly used by towns, according to the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. The reason is simple. Underrides restrict a town's financial flexibility and *may harm the bond rating of that town*.

The simplest way to explain an underride is to think about your credit card. Imagine having a credit card with a $10,000 credit limit. You use that card, however you rarely carry a balance of more than $5,000. An underride would be like asking your credit card company to *voluntarily lower your own credit limit* to $7,500.

That sounds fine, however now imagine you go to finance a new car. Will your self-reduced credit worthiness *help* or *hurt* your chances of getting that car loan at a decent rate? (hint: It would hurt it.)

I know this may be confusing. However, I can state the following facts:

1. It has taken seven years to get a favorable bond rating for Monterey.

2. An underride may have a negative impact on our bond rating.

3. Monterey needs a good bond rating to grow and to respond to major expenditures (foreseen and unforeseen).

This underride is not good for Monterey. I am voting "NO."

—Steven Weisz
Monterey Select Board chair

**Getting the Monterey News**

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(See the list at the top of page 1.)

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Contact the *News* at MontereyNews9@gmail.com.

## Letters

### Vote Yes on Article 30

I Say "NO" to chemicals in Lake Garfield.

When I was a child, my favorite toy was my chemistry set. I loved the pungent bottles of mysterious liquids, grainy powders, experiments changing colors, bubbling, burning, turning into gels and messes down in our basement. Even as a ten year old, I knew that chemicals could be harmful, even dangerous, and were not to be spread around, disposed of or touched without extreme caution. I became a straight 'A' student in Chemistry, never forgetting those early days in my "laboratory."

As a teacher, I taught a series of lessons about water to young students. We learned what a scarce and precious resource clean, fresh water is on our watery blue planet. We explored, using an "Engineering is Elementary" curriculum developed by the Museum of Science research facilities in Boston, technologies of purifying water through various non-chemical means.

Monterey is home to a clean, much-loved lake which is facing challenges from pollution, human settlement, recreation, and invasive species. The solution to these challenges is not to add chemical herbicides to Lake Garfield.

Consider some historical background on chemical "fixes." In 1948, scientist Paul Muller was awarded the Nobel Prize for his research on DDT as a contact poison against insects. This widely hailed "wonder" pesticide did, for a time, appear to defeat malaria-carrying mosquitoes. However, in the years that followed, DDT was proven to have tragic wide-ranging environmental and health impacts, including increase of cancers, nervous system and liver damage, and extinction of wildlife species. Rachel Carson, who published *Silent Spring* in 1962, was attacked and ridiculed for her objections to widespread chemical use, before science finally caught up. DDT was banned worldwide in 2001 (for all but emergency use). Alfred Nobel, a chemist, believed he was creating a safer chemical for use as a mining and building explosive when he developed dynamite. A pacifist, he was condemned for profiting from the sale of weapons, and ultimately bequeathed his fortune to institute the Nobel Prize. Bitter and disillusioned, he realized too late that actions can have unintended mortal consequences. Antibiotics have been a miracle in the modern age, but medical science is now grappling with overprescription of antibiotics and the grave threat of antibiotic-resistant pathogens. Opioid medications were hailed as effective remedies for acute and chronic pain, before their often unintentional overuse became one of the most serious health threats facing our nation. Even heavily promoted antibacterial soaps and household products are now suspected of creating "superbugs," and are being withdrawn from the market.

The main causes of decreasing water quality in Lake Garfield are:

•Inadequate and faulty septic systems;

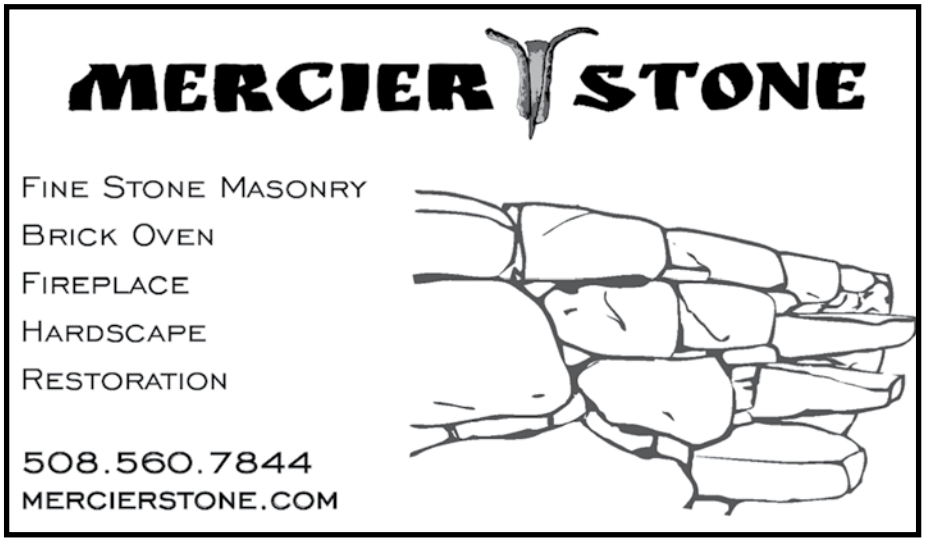
•Gas and oil leakage from motor boats;

•Fertilizers and pesticides applied within the watershed;

•Runoff resulting from elimination of natural filters such as wetlands and brush.

Adding toxic chemical herbicides to the lake will do nothing to remediate these problems, will certainly produce new difficulties with collateral plant and animal damage, and possibly pose health risks to humans as well. Nor are the chemical herbicides which have been proposed to reduce milfoil a one-time application; they must be used repeatedly to have the desired effect, and are not a permanent "fix." A clean lake is not a barren lake, devoid of diverse plant and animal life. That's what swimming pools are for. Wouldn't most of us rather swim, fish, and coexist with plants and wildlife in our lake community, even if it means we also have to deal with what some call "nuisance weeds?" Let's continue to explore and engage in preventative measures, and non-chemical alternative methods. Better living isn't always through chemistry.

—Carol Edelman



## Lake Garfield Working Group

The Lake Garfield Working Group (LGWG) is comprised of volunteers appointed by the select board to advise on town policy matters relating to the health of Lake Garfield. The group has continued to hold its monthly public meetings through the winter, even as seasonal lake activity is primarily limited to ice fishing and occasional skating. We continue to sponsor research and mitigation efforts into the problem of invasive lake weed, and have advocated for non-chemical efforts of weed removal by contracting for diver-assisted suction harvesting (DASH) of Eurasion milfoil. DASH will continue in the spring this year with the remaining funds from last year's appropriation. A request of $50,000 to continue this work in the fall of this year and spring of 2023 will be brought to voters at this year's town meeting. This increase over the $30,000 appropriations of the last three years is a response to the seasonal variation in milfoil, as well as the improved harvesting technology now available.

Important to all the work of the LGWG is the research on the environment and ecology of the lake, which has been conducted for many years through surveys by lake scientists hired by the Friends of Lake Garfield. Most recently this has included lake scientists Hillary Kenyon surveying all parameters of lake health, and Shannon Poulin researching cyanobacteria. They have kept the LGWG informed on pertinent areas of concern. Complimentary to all the above, Dennis Lynch, in collaboration with the LGWG, has successfully guided the process of the town's applications to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection for several grants aimed at reducing nutrient pollution of the lake. Courtney Morehouse of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission has added her efforts to the implementation of water runoff mitigation systems as a component of these grants. We will continue to meet monthly as posted on the town website and encourage all interested parties to attend.

—Steve Snyder, Chair
Lake Garfield Working Group

***ARTICLE 28. CITIZEN PETITION***
*To see if the Town will vote to approve the attached non-binding resolution to designate Monterey as a pollinator friendly community (as a number of nearby towns have done) and to prioritize native plantings in municipal landscaping and restoration efforts.*

## Letters

### A Pollinator-Friendly Town

A visit to friends in Florida a few years ago brought home to me the urgency of maintaining ecological balance. And it is one of the reasons I now am so ardent about gardening with native plants: they are essential to creating a functioning habit for local wildlife, where pollinators are a vital part of the food chain. This is one of the so very important issues involved in becoming a "Pollinator-Friendly Community." The Monterey Native Plants Working group hopes you will support this initiative when it comes to a vote at the next town meeting.

Before my trip, I had eagerly anticipated sunshine, warmth, green gardens, and the birds of Florida. My friends lived in a community bound by long, long evergreen hedges trimmed with utter precision. Houses were sizable and sat in immaculately maintained gardens. Sitting outside on a porch, I was puzzled by the lack of screens. I asked my friends if they were not bothered by mosquitoes. "Not a problem." said my friends.

But, something else was niggling, puzzling me. Then came the realization that in this lush subtropical garden, there were relatively few flowers. And then, I heard the silence. I saw an almost total absence of insects, of birds. I was witnessing Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring"! Insects, insecticide. Pests, pesticide. Rachel Carson was a biologist and conservationist whose book "Silent Spring" (1962) brought attention to the devastating effect of pesticides on the environment, and the chemical industry's efforts to hide this. Her work played a large role in the eventual banning of DDT, and in the environmental movement that led to the forming of the US EPA.

Insecticides have had a devastating effect on multiple pollinators which has had a ripple effect throughout the food chains in all our ecosystems. However, a common misconception is that it is only synthetic pesticides that are dangerous. We are dealing with an ever increasing tick population and tick related diseases that can be devastating for humans. Permethrin based insecticides are being used widely in preventing tick-born diseases, with the assumption that it is harmless because it's derived from plants (i.e.natural) in the chrysanthemum family. People have been led to believe that it only kills ticks and mosquitoes. In fact it is a neurotoxin that kills all land and aquatic micro-organisms with which it comes in contact. The Massachusetts EPA has banned it use within 20 feet of any waterway including streams, of which there are so many here in Monterey. Spraying it on clothing is very effective in preventing tick contact for us, but when sprayed on the ground, it is deadly for the pollinators we need so badly to protect.

For all of these reasons, the Monterey Native Plants Working group hopes you will support this initiative.

—Elizabeth Wolf
Monterey Native Plants Working Group

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## Monterey Softball
### Open Call

All softball players
Join a 50+ year tradition of
pick-up slow pitch softball.
Ages 10 to 80.
Summer Sunday mornings
Greene Park, Monterey
Batting practice at 10
Games begin at 10:30

## School District Report

Hello Monterey!

For those of you who do not know, I was appointed last fall as the town's representative to the South Berkshire Regional School District committee. It has been an incredible learning experience and a challenge to navigate how the business of the school district gets done. I'm happy to report that despite the numerous logistical challenges we face in the middle of a pandemic and limited state funding, the district continues to enhance the academic experience and support available to students.

It cannot be overstated how much Covid has impacted the overall functioning and day-to-day life at SBRSD schools. We are finally at a point that implemented systems for testing and reporting have made things manageable. Our working relationships with public health advisors in the county have shifted to addressing ongoing mental health issues for our community, including "the warm line"—a call-in support line available four evenings a week for those in need of support and assistance for pandemic-related stress.

The district has also partnered with Bard College at Simon's Rock in Great Barrington and was awarded an "early college" designation that will grant our students access to a college campus and provide credit-earning college courses. Another focus this year is the community internship partnership, which pairs students with areas of work that might interest them. We are always looking for more internship opportunities, so please contact me or the school if you can provide one.

With rising operation costs that we are all also experiencing at home, transportation was a huge challenge. We had only one bidder despite efforts to interest other carriers in coming south. The resulting increase in transportation costs for next year is a major contributor to the increase you will see on the warrant at town meeting.

I feel it's important to note the year-round work that goes into reducing budget increases, and the tireless work of the administration in grant writing that has offset a huge chunk of expenses to taxpayers—over $2.9 million! This is all without the help of a dedicated grant writer. I strongly encourage everyone who reads this to also take a close look at the budget-focused district newsletter for a detailed outline of "all things budget" plus lots of good news and goings-on. It should appear in your mailbox soon if it hasn't already.

As a school committee member, I am also responsible for sitting on the Regional School District Planning Board (RSDPB). For those who do not know, this is the board examining possible models to merge or support collaborative efforts between the two local regional school districts, SBRSD and Berkshire Hills School District. Please refer to the beautifully designed website at 8towns.org to get up to speed on this issue, and read the wealth of research provided that will drive this process forward. The full board meetings, all accessible via Zoom, happening through spring and early summer, will address the board's deliberations and a possible vote on a recommended model to explore. In light of the potential cost to taxpayers and the impacts on the future of our community, I want to encourage the Monterey community to participate in meetings, watch the process closely, and ask questions or make comments in person or at the meetings via the 8towns.org website.

On another note, I am officially calling upon community members in hopes that there is interest in becoming the next school committee member ahead of the November election. While I plan to remain engaged in meetings for both the school committee and the RSDPB, it is not realistic for me to perform those duties to the best of my ability and parent and work full-time. I'd be more than happy to discuss responsibilities and what to expect to insure the right person ends up advocating for our kids.

For any questions or concerns related to this update, feel free to contact me at lrodriguez@sbrsd.org.

—Laura Rodriguez
Monterey School Committee Representative

The website to learn about the models to merge or collaborate between the two districts is: 8towns.org.

## Let's Give it a Thought

Last year Melissa Noe was appointed town administrator. Later in the year she was put on administrative leave. Thankfully, after a tumultuous meeting, she was reinstated. At that meeting it was brought up by many, "Who will take over if Melissa is not here?" I think we should take notice and hire someone who can be at the town hall when Melissa is not able to be.

Melissa has many meetings to attend, both in town and beyond, not to mention vacation time, sick time, or the many personal things we all need to do throughout the year.

We need someone to take care of the daily duties of the town hall, including the many items that don't need a town administrator's attention.

This would include giving out transfer station stickers, permit papers, handling general questions and, I'm sure, many other activities that are needed.

Even a governor needs a lieutenant governor.

—David Gilmore

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## Town Elections 2022

Town elections will be held on Tuesday, May 10, from noon to 7 p.m., at town hall.

Absentee ballots are available by contacting the town clerk.

### Contested Seats

Finance Committee (3 years)
- Frank Abbott (D)
- Roger Tryon (R)

Select Board (3 years)
- Susan Cooper (D)
- Jeremy Rawitz (R)

### Uncontested Seats

Board of Appeals (Zoning) (5 years)
- Gary Shaw (D&R)

Board of Assessors (3 year)
- Scott Steibel (D&R)

Board of Health (3 years)
- Thomas Mensi (R)

Board of Health (2 years)
- Mort Salomon (D&R)

Bylaw Review Committee (1 year)
- Anne Marie Enoch (D&R)

Bylaw Review Committee (2) 2 years
- Jeff Zimmerman (D&R)
- David Myers (D&R)

Bylaw Review Committee (2) 3 years
- Pauline Banducci (D&R)
- Stuart Litwin (D&R)

Cemetery Commission (3 years)
- Michael Banner (D&R)

Constable (3 years)
- Julio Rodriques (D&R)

Library Trustee (2) 3 years
- Carolee (Mickey) Jervas (D&R)
- Rebecca Wolin (D&R)

Library Trustees (2 years)
- Nancy Kleban (D&R)

Library Trustees (1 year)
- Judy Kamenstein (D&R)

Moderator (1 year)
- Mark Makuc (D&R)

Parks Commission (2) 3 years
- Gerald Clarin (D&R)
- Steven Snyder (D&R)

Parks Commission (1 year) **See note*
- Christopher Andrews (D&R)

Planning Board (2) 5 years
- Lauren Behrman (D&R)
- Margaret Abbott (R)

Planning Board (1 year)
- Noel Wicke (D&R)

## Town Elections - Candidate Statements

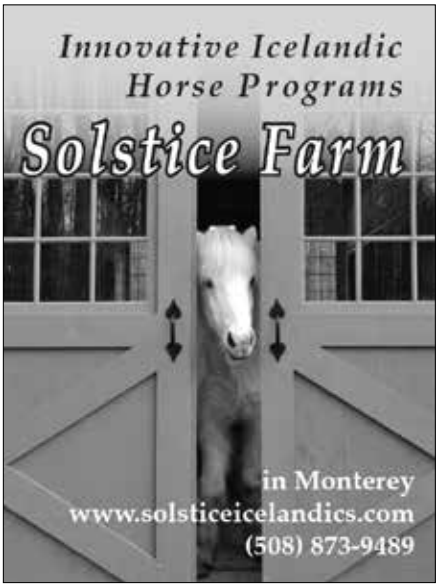
### Nancy Kleban
**Library Trustee**

I was branch manager of the Rohnert Park-Cotati Regional Library in Sonoma County, California (2009-2019). Before that I was director of the library at American Intercontinental University in Los Angeles. I completed a master's degree in library and information science in 2000, following a few decades of work as a book designer/copy editor and bookkeeper. I built a house on Beartown Mountain Road, a property purchased by the Kleban family in 1948, and moved back to Monterey in spring 2019. I continue to work part-time as a bookkeeper and am currently immersed in editing a book on music, working closely with the author using Zoom's screen share feature.

During fifteen years as a library director/branch manager, I was particularly active in collection development (including being countywide selector of the audiobooks for the Sonoma Library system) and technology instruction. I participated in two strategic plan projects, and my branch pioneered a self-checkout system for Sonoma County.

Monterey has a wonderful library with a top-notch director and a great staff. It has been my pleasure to serve as an appointed trustee, and I would like to continue as an elected trustee overseeing the library's operations.

—Nancy Kleban




### Lauren Behrman
**Planning Board**

My name is Lauren Behrman, and while I'm a relatively new permanent resident in Monterey (since August 2020), my heart has been in Monterey since the early 1980s when I first began spending summers on Lake Garfield. When we lost our rental home in 1994, we made a home in Otis. Life always revolved around Monterey—my children went to Camp Half Moon for twelve summers, and I always dreamed of making Monterey home.

I was appointed to the planning board in June 2021, and I've been an active member of the board since that time. I bring thirty-seven years of professional experience to the board, and willingness to learn and contribute to all of the planning board activities. I have a good working relationship with all the current board members and we have worked productively together in addressing citizen construction projects and embarking on creating an updated master plan for our town.

—Lauren Behrman

**Christopher J. Tryon**
& Associates
DBA:
Berkshire Geo-Technologies
CIVIL ENGINEERING

Perc Testing
Septic Design
Sewer & Water System Design
Residential & Commercial Site Design
Drainage Design
Structural Evaluation & Design
Retaining Wall Design
Foundation Design
Construction Layout
Driveway Design & Permitting
Scenic Mountain Act Permitting
Wetland Permitting
Field & Laboratory Testing of Construction Materials (Concrete & Soils)

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# Town Elections - Candidate Statements

## Jeremy Rawitz
### Select Board

Hello Montereyans,

My campaign slogan, as noted in my mailing, is to create "The Friendliest Town Hall on the Planet." If you know and feel that we can do better, please consider voting for me.

What does "The Friendliest Town Hall on the Planet" mean? Here is my definition: A place where empathy, dignity, solutions, technology, and accountability occur daily.

Why is this important?

In my opinion, we have experienced significant discord in town hall for several years which has resulted in four investigations. It is polarizing, divisive, and lacking in dignity. It is disappointing and disconcerting that over twenty complaints have been filed by citizens, employees, and volunteers in the last year alone. No town should have this many, let alone one the size of Monterey. This select board has neglected its executive responsibilities to address these issues. In the future, the board must take back their executive authority and manage the town. Let's figure this out and discuss it openly.

How do we determine what needs to change?

It is time to end this discord. We all need to evaluate the data, including all the inputs and outputs, from the latest taxpayer funded investigation to determine what needs to change, be remedied, or improved upon. If there is a constant factor to the discord, it is important a new board acts decisively on the content of the report, especially, if the current board fails to act.

There is not enough transparency, and we should do everything possible to make town information available to us all.

I have spent the last four years building communities one step at a time all over the world. I would like the opportunity to put these talents to use in Monterey. We will be the friendliest town hall on the planet.

Thanks for considering me.

—Jeremy Rawitz

## Susan Cooper
### Select Board

"An effective selectman must become an expert in the political arts of courtesy and compromise." (*Handbook for Massachusetts Selectmen*, p. 3)

Why am I running for Select Board?

My husband and I moved here twenty years ago to raise our daughter in this beautiful and welcoming town. Monterey was the first place I have lived where neighbors became people I welcomed into my life and knew I could rely on for both help in a crisis and joy in shared experience. I value this community for all of the many ways it has helped sustain my family.

In the past few years I have watched the theater of town hall grow increasingly divisive as communication broke down, tempers flared, and constructive work ground towards a halt under constant threat of litigation. This is in such sharp contrast to the cooperative way I see our community coming together to govern at town meetings! My neighbors and I despair that we are losing the sense of community and camaraderie that makes Monterey so special and unique. But last year's town meeting in two sessions reminds me that we are still a town of neighbors. We listened to each other. Articles were rewritten and were better for the conversation. And votes were usually far less polarized than I might have expected given the occasional heat of discourse.

My younger self would never have considered being involved in politics. Now I believe my thoughtful, steady approach, analytical mind, and communication and listening skills can serve the town. My focus on using dialogue and data to craft solutions to the many substantive issues before us can help get us back on track.

What are my skills and knowledge?

As a biologist I am trained to see complex systems as a whole, to collect lots of information, to examine data objectively, and be open to new ideas and approaches. Decades of teaching kids and adults have honed my communications skills and my patience.

Serving on the zoning board of appeals for nine years has given me a grounding in town politics and demonstrated that I can apply our bylaws fairly and universally, while striving to help applicants fully enjoy their property.

I have spent the last year regularly attending select board meetings and talking to the people who help run the town. I know what many of the pressing and long-range issues are, and am skilled at research, data analysis, and project planning. I enjoy engaging with other bright minds to find creative solutions to challenging problems. What is the role of a select board member? >

Put succinctly by the *Handbook for Massachusetts Selectmen*, "The effective board devises ways to work cooperatively—not necessarily unanimously—toward broad common goals. Teamwork can be developed if individual selectmen understand that effectiveness is not achieved by individual action, but by a board of selectmen acting in concert" (p. 5). We need select board members who do their jobs. That means they need to not only show up for meetings but also have civil deliberation—even when they disagree. They need to be able to talk to and work with town employees and our wonderful community. They need to think strategically, managing the simple things like paying and hiring people, but also focusing on matters that require planning. They need to be humble enough to admit when they have made errors and to be able to endorse other people's good ideas.

This is not a moment for rancorous debate, this is a moment for cooperative dialogue and constructive compromise. Being kind to each other, fostering cooperation and compassion in dialogue, and assuming best intentions are all good places to start, and vital to a functional democracy. Let us work together to reweave the fabric of our community into a sounder whole.

—Susan Cooper

## Roger Tryon
### Finance Committee

I am a lifelong Democrat, nominated this year by the Republican caucus to serve on the finance committee. I've lived my entire life here in Monterey on Lowland Farm. My service to the town goes back to when I was eight years of age and accompanied my father to fire calls all over town. When the phone rang in the middle of the night, we knew it was the fire company on the other end. I stopped going on calls when I went away to college, but after graduation I served on the conservation commission and began my decades-long tenure as tree warden. I served on the executive board of the Monterey Preservation Land Trust for many years, and am currently a planning board member.

During my time as tree warden, I served the townspeople alone, and I consulted them, both formally through public hearings and informally around town, before forming a plan or taking any action involving town trees. I believe that this communication not only builds community, but is the essential foundation for good government, and I intend to take the same approach as a finance committee member.

My financial knowledge and perspective come not only from my years of public service, but also from my experience running Lowland Farm and my landscaping business, Tryon Stoneworks, founded in 1987. For thirty-five years, I've been managing employees, balancing budgets, and developing financial plans. I feel that having this business background is a useful preparation for a seat on Monterey's Finance Committee. If elected, I will bring a willingness to listen, to learn, and to serve the townspeople to the best of my ability.

Whether you are a Democrat or a Republican, I ask for your vote at the polls on May 10.

—Roger Tryon

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## Frank Abbott

### Finance Committee

I would like to thank the Democratic caucus for nominating me for the open seat on the finance committee. This is an honor, particularly since I have only been a resident of Monterey for eighteen months and many of you don't know me.

Our youngest daughter, who was working at Stanton Home, introduced us to the Berkshires in 2016. We loved the area so much we bought the old Pederson house on Main Road. With our kids and grandkids only a few hours away, Monterey was the perfect place to retire. Even though I have kept busy pursuing my hobbies of hiking, photography, and being a YouTube handyman, I am ready to contribute to my new community.

I was born and raised in Washington DC (please don't hold that against me!) and worked for *The Washington Post* for forty-four years. I started as an apprentice pressman at eighteen. Little did I know then that I would eventually oversee the production of the daily newspaper, manage five departments, including administration and maintenance, supervise a staff of over 350, and prepare an annual budget exceeding $20 million.

There are many differences between a corporate budget and a government budget, but I believe many of my career experiences will lend themselves well to Monterey.

For fourteen years, beginning in 1996, I was general manager and president of *The Post's* commercial printing subsidiary. The budgets I worked on and had to sign off on exceeded $10 million annually. I had over-sight for the building of a $40 million production facility staying within budget. I also wore two hats for eight of those fourteen years as the publisher of five out of the twenty community newspapers that we printed. I worked directly with residents and community leaders, whose points of view often differed from mine, but I saw these as opportunities to listen and to learn. Collaboration was the attitude I brought to all my responsibilities at *The Post*.

My work history required that I prepare budgets with a diverse group of people with differing needs. My department heads and I had to forecast three to five years of sales, expenses, profits, and capital needs (machinery and equipment). This complex budgeting experience with both operating and capital budgets will, I believe, be of benefit to Monterey as we face increasing costs of services while meeting the needs of our residents.

I know I have much to learn about the town. I will make it a priority to get to know the key staff persons and the department heads and to understand not just their budgets but their short- and -long term needs.

So why am I running for Finance Committee?

I believe my skill set lends itself to Monterey's needs. As much as I love budgets, what I love more is working with people, all people, building consensus and appreciating their contributions to our shared goals. I have the time and energy to serve the town I've grown to love. I look forward to getting to know you. Please reach out to me at frankrabbott@gmail.com if you have any questions.

—Frank Abbott



## Letters

### No to Jeremy Rawitz

Hello all,

We're writing this out of concern for what could happen if Jeremy Rawitz is given power as a member of the select board. The following are **facts** about our experience with him during his time as chair of the Monterey Conservation Commission.

In preparation for a construction project at our home, we needed to get ConCom approval. We filled out the online form found on the town website and submitted it as both digital and hard copies. We waited a couple months and heard nothing. After multiple emails and phone calls we decided to attend a scheduled meeting in person to see what the hold-up was. We discovered that not only was the meeting canceled, but several previous meetings had also been canceled, with no plans to hold any more meetings for the foreseeable future.

The ConCom had essentially just stopped doing their job. We (and anyone else who needed ConCom approval) were effectively being held hostage by the willful dereliction of duty by Jeremy. We then involved the select board. After a couple of meetings, more emails, more forms (and fees) and complaints to the state, Jeremy and the other members of the ConCom resigned *en masse*. Within a week or so of his resignation, and the appointment of some temporary ConCom members, we had our approval—just like that. We have many emails documenting our experience and would be happy to share them with anyone who'd be interested.

Again—these are **facts,** not opinions.

Sincerely,

—Chris and Jennie Andrews

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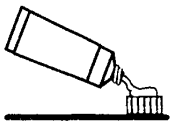

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## Letters

### Let's elect Susan Cooper!

Susan Cooper's character and personality are the perfect match for Monterey's needs. She is well-informed, honest, energetic, calm, kind, and respectful. Her past service on the zoning board has shown her dedication to Monterey, as has her consistent attendance at select board meetings for well over a year. Her careful analysis has often provided the select board with sound and frequently accepted advice on many issues.

Susan's opponent, Jeremy Rawitz, may point to his service on the conservation commission. But during the last two years, while he served as chair, he far too often displayed character and personality traits inconsistent with our present needs on the select board, and quite the opposite of those possessed by Susan Cooper. For example, in January 2021, a member of the conservation commission wrote to the select board describing the atmosphere at several meetings as "unbearable" and "uncomfortable for not only the public but for the members also." Those problems were created by Jeremy and one other member, a fact I confirmed by watching reruns of those meetings. More recently Jeremy stopped holding conservation commission hearings and then engineered the sudden resignation of all his committee's members. That left citizens with pending applications angry and frustrated. Following his decision to run for the select board, Jeremy appeared before the select board on March 30, taking that opportunity to criticize and attempt to embarrass the new ConCom chair, Chris Blair. Watch that meeting on Youtube and you will see why Jeremy would not be a positive asset were he elected selectman. Perhaps given time and a dedicated commitment to incorporating Professor Hicks' principles of dignity into his public life, Jeremy will be ready to serve as a leader in Monterey, but now is not that time.

In politics demonstrated character is key. Don't buy a slogan. Elect Susan Cooper.

—Don Coburn
Former chair, Monterey Select Board

## Letters

### Susan Cooper for Select Board

Recently, there has been great deal of discussion about *dignity* in Monterey. I am glad that we are focusing on this, because I believe the voters of this town have not been treated with much of it.

The most egregious example of the lack of dignity is when public officials boycott their official duties. There is simply no excuse for it. If you are in the position to serve the public, you show up and serve the public. If you decide that you no longer wish to do so, you should resign and let someone else take your place… You do not boycott your job!

I have nothing personally against either candidate. Both seem interested in moving Monterey forward. Both have compelling reasons why they are uniquely qualified to serve a three-year term on the select board. The big difference lies in *deeds* and not *words* (or slogans).

While sitting as the chair of the Monterey Conservation Commission, Jeremy Rawitz chose to boycott several meetings. His excuse was a dispute with the select board. Regardless of the merits of the dispute, the only people that got hurt by Jeremy Rawitz's boycott, was the *public*. Townspeople could not complete projects in town, or seek advice about protecting our watersheds and vistas. They were simply not treated with *dignity*.

No one who participates in boycotts, should sit on a public board or committee. Period.

Susan Cooper will make a fine member of the Monterey Select Board. She has dignified the select board with her frequent attendance and her input. She has a good working knowledge of the town and often reaches out with intelligent questions. Most importantly, she has demonstrated a commitment to show up and do the work for the people of Monterey. I am voting for Susan Cooper.

—Steven Weisz
Chair, Monterey Select Board

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## Letters
### Endorsing Susan Cooper

Neighbors,

This past year has been a very difficult one for positive relations within Monterey Town Hall, especially between the select board, finance committee and our town administrator. If you have listened to any of their separate or joint meetings you must be struck by the lack of effective leadership on all sides. Joint meetings have broken down into what could only be described as dysfunctional at best. This has to change, and we can do this when we elect quality candidates.

At the select board level we have voted into office individuals that had little or no prior experience in town government. This year we have a candidate running for select board who walked away from his responsibilities on the conservation committee. He suddenly resigned along with the others in a huff. This selfish and negative attitude towards public service was also prevalent on the finance committee and select board this past year. A member of each decided to boycott meetings when they did not get their way.

In better days, the select board was an office that residents would consider after spending time serving the town on a board or committee. This allowed the individual to get a sense of how the town functioned but, more importantly, it gave us, as voters, a chance to see how a candidate works with others, their ability to listen and debate issues, and their interest in Monterey—not their own ego. Would we have voted for any of the current members of the select board if we had had a better understanding of their shortcomings? How can we possibly elect someone this year who has already shown an inability to work with others especially if they disagree?

There is no easy or quick remedy for the problems we face but there is an immediate step we can take to a better working select board. Starting this year, we have the opportunity to vote for an individual who has a positive ten-year track record on the zoning board of appeals (ZBA). Susan Cooper is known for her ability to listen, analyze conflicting issues, and work towards a common sense resolution. Wow! What a breath of fresh air that would be on the select board. Please talk to members who have served on the ZBA with her and join with me in moving towards a better select board. Monterey deserves more from its leaders than the disaster we have had to put up with these past years.

The other board that has a troubling history is the finance committee. For the past three years this committee has challenged the select board in a race to the bottom. This past year, under the leadership of Michele Miller, there was a glimmer of what a finance committee could be and the important role it could play. The only reason it accomplished what it did was the boycotting of meetings by one member. His absence actually allowed the finance committee to function in a normal way.

The good news is that the boycotting member is not running again and we have two excellent candidates who have thrown their hats into the ring. Roger Tryon is a lifelong resident, business owner, prior member of a number of boards and committees, and is committed to bringing back a functioning and forward leaning finance committee.

Frank Abbott is new to Monterey but has a wealth of financial experience from his work at the *Washington Post* to share with the town. Read what Tryon and Abbott have written elsewhere in this issue, and seek them out for comments. Be informed.

Vote Susan Cooper for Monterey Select Board.

—Kenn Basler
Former chair, Monterey Select Board

## Letters
### Support for Susan Cooper

Although I appreciate Jeremy Rawitz (R) running for select board to replace outgoing Steven Weisz, I whole-heartedly support Susan Cooper (D). I have watched and learned from her for many years at town meetings, and she is thoughtful, well-versed in so much, and would make an excellent new member of the select board. I wish elections were held the same day as Annual Town Meeting, but they are now the Tuesday after Town Meeting, May 10, from noon to 7 p.m., at town hall.

—Karen Shreefter

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## Letters
### Susan Cooper for Select Board

Monterey is fortunate to have contested elections for both the select board and finance committee seats.

Since 2014, when I became the editor for this paper, there have been eight elections. Only ten individuals have stood for election to the select board in that time. Twice the seat was uncontested. Steven Weisz ran three times (2015, 2018, 2019), winning twice, once uncontested; Michael Johnson ran twice (2016, 2017). The other candidates include Jon Sylbert (2015), Carol Edelman (2016), Kenn Basler (2017-second term), Don Coburn (2018), John Weingold (2020) uncontested, Justin Makuc (2021), Susan Cooper (2021, 2022), and Jeremy Rawitz (2022).

There are folks in town who are interested in expanding the three-person board to five people, but this history begs the question of whether we could field five people dedicated to doing the job.

This is not an easy job. To do it properly requires continuous attention to the people and the needs of the town. In light of this, the town owes gratitude to Steven Weisz for running three times, and serving six years in office.

This year we have Jeremy Rawitz (Republican nominee) and Susan Cooper (Democratic nominee).

Jeremy has lived in Monterey for a little over four years, and he jumped right in by volunteering for the Monterey Conservation Commission. However, he and the rest of the commission suddenly resigned earlier this year after not holding several scheduled meetings, for reasons that have never been fully explained to the public. At that point he had served over three years. The ConCom is the mandatory first stop for anyone wanting a building permit. I thank Jeremy Rawitz for offering the voters a choice in this election.

Susan Cooper has lived in Monterey for over twenty years. During that time she has been elected to the zoning board of appeals twice and has served nine years. The ZBA is involved with any building permit applications for projects that can't be done "by right," as defined in the town bylaws. She has been a faithful attendee to select board meetings since well before her run for the board last year, continuing to the present, making her well acquainted with not only the issues, but the scope of time necessary to do the job in meetings, in preparation, and for connecting with town employees.

I encourage the voters to consider Susan's background, her years of service to the town, her thoughtful attention to details, and vote for her in the May elections.

— Stephen Moore

## Letters
### The Leopard's Spots

You can't change the leopard's spots. You can shave its coat off and make it seem like the spots are gone—but when the fur grows back the spots return!

Elected officials, like appointed ones, work on behalf of the people they represent. The townspeople of Monterey should not consider electing or appointing Jeremy Rawitz to any town position after he showed us his "spots."

He held the town hostage for months when he was chair of the conservation commission—and then he resigned. Will he behave the same way on the select board as he did on the conservation commission? Remember the leopard's spots.

He screamed "shut up!" at a recent select board meeting. It is difficult to believe that an apology is behavior-changing. His screaming "shut up" is equivalent to the leopard's spots.

He has recently shown his penchant for avoiding requests. He was asked several times by several different people on the town's Google group for the recordings from the conservation commission meetings of which he was chair. His response was to invite people for a cup of coffee to discuss the election. Why is he dodging the issue? Might this be an indication of how he would perform if he was a select board member?

A leopard will always be a leopard—and neither its spots nor its behavior will ever change! With his actions and his words, he has given us enough reasons why we should vote for Susan Cooper. A vote for Susan Cooper is a vote for dignity.

— Hillel M Maximon

*Editor's Note: This letter is a personal opinion, not an editorial by the* Monterey News. *The* Monterey News *does not publish editorials.*


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## Candidate Forum

Last year, with Covid hanging over the town, I decided to invite the candidates to participate in a written forum. I have done the same thing this year. I solicited input for questions from a number of people who are active in town affairs. I am hopeful that this approach will yield a broader vision for the future of the town.

I asked the candidates to respond to two or three questions listed for the office they're seeking, and then encouraged them to address any of the additional questions. It is my hope that this will help our voters when making their important election decisions.

— Stephen Moore, Editor

### Select Board Questions

**Village Culvert:** The town has received two grants for assessment and preliminary engineering from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to study the need for replacing the village culvert. There was not unanimous support for the second grant with the current select board.

What is your view for the need to replace the village culvert?

**Emergency Services:** (Police, Fire, Ambulance services): Changes in state laws, and shifting demographics for our town and region, are having a large impact on how emergency services are provided, and more changes are coming.

Some people want to keep these services as locally-based as possible while others are advocating for some degree of regionalization.

What is your view for the provision of emergency services to the town over the next five to ten years?

**Human Resources:** The town has been engaged with four other south county towns to create a position to share a human resources professional. This has been a difficult effort yielding few good candidates.

What is your view on the best way to move forward?

### Finance Committee Questions

**Village Culvert:** This project would be a substantial capital expense to Monterey. The town already has significant debt. Some of this debt is being serviced by short-term "roll over" borrowing seeking the lowest current rates, and some are longer-term notes providing predictable expenses.

What is your view on how the town should best manage its long-term debt obligations?

**Financial Overview:** The annual budget is an exercise in balancing the needs of the town with the ability of the taxpayers to support the budget.

What is your view of the affordability impact on the taxpayers for the current budget?

**PILOT Program:** A relatively high percentage of property in Monterey pays no real estate taxes. This includes non-profit organizations and public lands.

Should Monterey institute a PILOT (Payment In Lieu of Taxes) program?

### Other Questions

**New Short-Term Rentals:** This is an issue being actively debated in Great Barrington and many other vacation and tourist areas. It can impact housing stocks, municipal finance, and the social and political structure of communities.

Do you have any concerns or suggestions around short-term rentals in Monterey?

**Monterey School House:** The school house on Main Road has been shuttered for many years now. A town-appointed group is working to have an historic district designated that might offer some financial support. Its future is an open question and at present it is a liability.

Should the town continue to own the school house in its current state, develop a different use, or dispose of it somehow?

**Gravel vs. Paved Roads:** Gravel roads are very much part of the character of rural areas like ours. Gravel roads require annual maintenance that varies by location and other factors. Paved roads typically have lower annual maintenance costs but very high capital costs.

What would you see as a long-term objective for our road types?

**Housing:** Should the town be active in developing affordable housing, perhaps offering housing for town residents who can no longer manage a full residence? Are there policies the town could adopt to help make housing more affordable for young families?

Maureen Banner

## Susan Cooper-Select Board

**Village Culvert:** Like so much of our national infrastructure, the village culvert is heading toward the end of its useful life. Moreover, weather predictions make it probable that floods will be both more frequent and more serious. It will be expensive and inconvenient to replace. But would you wait for the roof of your house to collapse rather than plan for its occasional but predictable replacement? Sooner or later it *must* be replaced. I would prefer to participate in strategic planning of its design and funding (including grant funding or state funding) than to have disaster thrust upon us.

**Emergency Services:** Monterey has been fortunate to have an exceptional level of emergency services. In an era of declining volunteerism, we have had the foresight to transition to paid services, where many other towns are struggling. This comes at a cost, and regionalization is often touted as the economical solution to all such problems. But as we have learned with the regionalization of schools, the devil is always in the details. Our aging population will likely increase our need, while our diffuse housing and meandering roads make effective centralization difficult. The town will have to move forward with great discretion to be sure that as we proceed we neither carry an unfair economic burden, nor seriously compromise response time. EMS, fire, and police that arrive too late are a tragedy best avoided.

**Human Resources:** There is no question that the town must update its human resource management, including our manual, job descriptions, and review practices. The difficulty is finding the best solution that is cost effective, available, and will adequately meet our needs. We do not have the need or budget for a full-time person. While working with companies has many drawbacks, contracting with an HR firm may be our most sensible option. We could contract a revision of the employee handbook and job descriptions which might require more initial hours. Then when our need was fewer ongoing hours for personnel review or workplace difficulties, then we could work with an individual from the firm on a part time basis. If people have other thoughtful, viable solutions for the current employment market, I would welcome new ideas.

**Short-term Rentals:** This is a hugely contentious issue across the country right now, as well as in the southern Berkshires. People want the right to use their property, and to earn extra income to help meet expenses. But there is also no question that the widespread proliferation of permanent short-term rentals, essentially unregulated hotels, is changing communities. The town needs to scrutinize the impact short-term rentals are having on our town. Are they truly a problem and how can we be sure? Are we okay with investors or LLCs buying up properties for the sole purpose of short-term rentals? Is that happening here and what is the impact on the town? How is the flow of strangers with no ongoing connection to the community altering our town? Do residents feel comfortable at our town beach? Are unattended rentals unduly burdening the town resources? We need to thoughtfully weigh the ever-present question of the balance between individual freedom and public good. There are a lot of questions with few simple solutions, but avoiding the questions because they are difficult or upsetting does not seem responsible.

**Housing:** I think most seniors would strongly prefer to remain in their own homes. The select board has worked with The Resource Inc., a local company that administers state block grants for retrofitting housing, to get grants for forgivable $40,000 loans for home repair to qualifying residents. This is an amazing opportunity, and dovetailing that with volunteers willing to help do the labor might help this money go farther. Meanwhile, the precipitous rise in property values, while a boon to some homeowners, is having problematic effects in our town. Owning a home here has become impossible for many hardworking local residents, the young families we need to keep our town healthy and vibrant. We need to find creative ways to provide housing opportunities for people who live and work in the Berkshires. I have some concrete ideas about this but they simply won't fit here!

**A Forum for Conversation:** In these post-Covid times, many of us are hungry for real opportunities to interact with each other. Summer is coming, and maybe we should all just enjoy picnics and barbecues. But I wonder if some type of occasional, moderated forum to dialogue about issues facing the town might be a way to begin conversations about things that require long-term solutions. We have so many bright, experienced, talented folks in our town. Involving more folks in crafting clever plans for prickly issues might be a way to help us navigate to a healthy exchange of ideas.

—Susan Cooper

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## Jeremy Rawitz- Select Board

**Village Culvert:** We must maintain all our culverts. This culvert replacement is an exceptionally expensive undertaking. Let's hope we get a grant so that the town can replace the culvert. There is a concern about a pipe used by the water company that needs to be addressed. We are progressing through a grant-writing process in stages. Our grant writers will really have to step up if we are to get the funding for this work. Otherwise, it will be prohibitive and not feasible.

**Emergency Services:** Regionalization—There are two trends that are not just coming but are already occurring. One is regionalization, the other is hiring professionals and relying less on volunteers.

For example, the volunteer fire department may sadly become a thing of the past. I support the idea of having paid professionals for some of the departments including the fire department. Naturally, we will never turn away volunteers.

**Fire Department:** The fire department has done well creating relationships with other towns and we have a great team that is well equipped. The chief can already attest that local towns back each other up. The team has done a good job of creating shifts to maintain maximum coverage.

One area to work on is an equitable payment system between towns when our firefighters show up or if they have firefighters coming to our town. We have mutual aid but to my knowledge we do not have a mutual payment system between towns.

Currently we have firefighters who live in other towns. Talent and volunteer pools are dwindling, and professionalizing will ensure greater safety. A transparent system to pay our firefighters should be presented to the finance committee.

**Police Department:** The town is proposing three full-time officers to cover us 24/7 for the next year. We are moving to full time because of issues on training and liabilities with part-time officers. Current gaps in service resulting from vacation days or sick days are covered by the state police.

Becket and Otis are combining their police departments with one chief. They have a formula for this that allows for savings and better coverage. Let's get ahead of this trend and see how we can regionalize this coverage and work with our neighbors.

Aside from our chief, none of our other police officers and part-time officers are living in town. In essence, outsourcing is already occurring. To be clear, the chief has done a good job building these relationships, let's explore with our neighbors greater regional cooperation, centralization, and cost savings.

**Ambulance:** It is extremely difficult to find qualified EMT and paramedics. There is a nationwide shortage and I believe having our own will be difficult to staff and operate. We currently rely on services from Great Barrington. When they are not available Otis or New Marlborough backs up. We do have more people than ever living here so I would welcome a cost-benefit analysis from the fire department. It needs to be seriously considered but there are hurdles to overcome.

**Human Resources:** There have been recommendations to get professional HR services since at least 2016. This is desperately needed. The current budget has allocated $6,500 for a part-time professional to be shared by other towns. I don't believe this is our best solution now. We need to right the ship and need to allocate more funds to an HR professional to ensure we have a safe environment for all of us in town, especially our employees. Everything is in need of a revision, from policies, the employee handbook, and employee reviews.

I will ask for more funds for HR support. It is long overdue. Most critical is that this individual report directly to the select board. The board must take on this responsibility so we can maintain confidentiality. As we hire more people from outside of Monterey, we should ensure this is properly done through an HR function that guarantees the safety of all.

**Short-Term Rentals:** There are an amazing amount of people renting. We should consider collecting taxes as other towns do. However, I am opposed to telling people how to use their property and we should allow it.

I believe we should follow regulatory guidance from the state level regarding inspections, and potential collection of lodging taxes which could be another source of town income.

**Monterey School House:** The building is in very bad shape. Unless there is an historical grant, we should not fix it. What would we be fixing it up for? If it is a public building, there is no parking or ADA accessibility.

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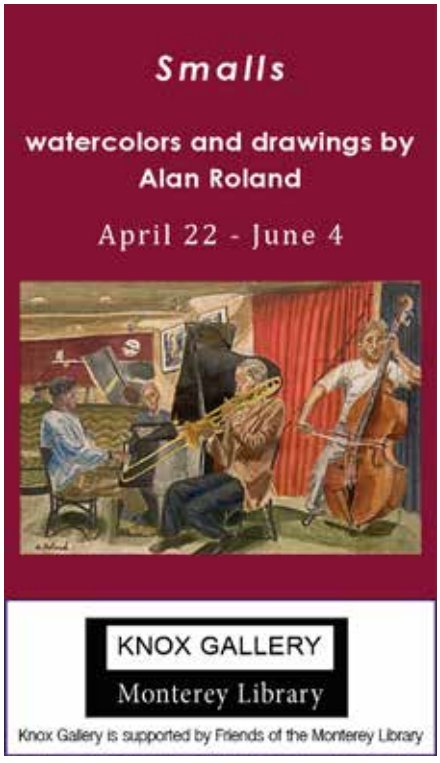


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## Frank Abbott - Finance

**Financial Overview:** The proposed FY23 budget that the select board and finance committee are recommending on the warrant shows operating expenses rising by 7.9% ($358k) over FY22 expenses. Even subtracting "Education" costs, over which we have no control, operating expenses are up 6.4% ($183k).

In the next few years, I believe both the operating and capital budgets will be a real challenge for the town and not just because of inflation and higher interest rates. Large sums in "free cash" may not be as readily available. With rising interest rates, keeping our stabilization and reserve funds at certain levels may be prudent in order to pay for capital improvements rather than financing them.

More than ever, it is critical that we have an even better understanding of our debt obligations and their impact on our budget, not just this year or next but for the long term. The town never wants to be in the position, in an even tighter fiscal year, that they have to defer or eliminate capital spending in order to resolve a budget deficit.

**Village Culvert:** The village culvert has been identified a "priority area of concern" for a number of years. MassDot identified four structural "deficiencies" in 2018. It has been well established that this "critical infrastructure" is past its useful life and a physical failure due to age or to a climate-related event could be catastrophic to "downtown" (Monterey Hazard Mitigation Plan 2020).

The question is no longer should we replace this culvert, but how best to pay for it given our already high debt obligations. The Town has been well served for three years (and will continue to be so) with successful grant writing to complete all the studies needed to proceed with this long-term capital improvement. In September 2020, the select board approved the #3 option with a price tag of $2.4 million, with Monterey contributing 25%. Recently it was learned that the local match will now be 10%. To date, there has been no cost to the town other than for grant writing.

In the next budget cycle or two, how to fund our 10% portion will be front and center as the town examines its current debt and how it is structured. The large ticket items in the capital budget in the next three to five years will need greater scrutiny.

**PILOT Program:** In 2019 the select board researched creating a PILOT program and it does not appear that a formal program was instituted, probably with good reason.

Under a PILOT program, a community's largest private tax-exempt institutions are asked to voluntarily pay some percentage of the taxes they would pay if they were fully taxed entities in recognition of the municipal services (e.g. police, fire, public works, etc.) which they utilize and benefit from. The key word is voluntary, even if a formal program is in place and formal requests are made.

Even without a formal program, Monterey is currently benefiting from PILOTs in the form of at least one non-profit's voluntary contribution. Perhaps there are others.

Monterey also already benefits from state payments for state-owned land (Beartown State Forest/4500 acres). This program is funded by the state legislature, but it is underfunded and there is a complicated formula to determine how much we receive. Small towns, including Monterey, are reliant on these state revenues and yet don't benefit as much as the larger towns.

I believe the community conversation about PILOTs should begin again as the town needs to look at all sources of actual and potential revenue considering future budget pressures. I would be interested in learning more.

**Paved Roads vs Gravel:** Paved roads may, in general, require less maintenance but at what cost? Is there an environmental impact? Are paved roads even something the residents want? The capital cost of paving roads is enormous and the town needs to be cautious about its current debt and incurring additional debt. If the residents felt this was an important issue and a grant was available to study it at no cost to the town then the town could make educated decisions "down the road" as to whether to incorporate paving roads into the capital improvement plan.

—Frank Abbott

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**Gravel vs Paved Roads:** Paving cannot be achieved without state funding. The costs are astronomical. However, an opinion from the highway department is welcome. My understanding is the highway department has software that can make a cost-benefit analysis and recommendations on which roads cost the most to maintain and where to prepare a maintenance plan. If a plan exists, we should make it available for public comment and feedback. A long-term plan will help focus our grant writers. No road should be paved without input from the abutters.

**Affordable Housing:** A very tough challenge for a town like Monterey. Funding, zoning, and infrastructure (septic and transportation) will be the big blockers. Funding will likely require state money and that is another level of oversight. What is our goal? Is it clearly defined?

We all want to make Monterey affordable for everyone. In my prior work building startup communities I came across many new and interesting solutions for housing. However, none are easy fixes but there are some very interesting new approaches. If housing expertise does not exist in town this should be tabled until we have a clearly defined goal.

**PILOT Program:** This is a program that will allow Monterey to recover some funds from lands where we currently do not receive tax revenue. I will ask the finance committee to report on what we are receiving and determine if we can collect more.

**Finance Committee:** I believe in an independent finance committee to work on budgets to be brought to the town meeting. We do not do a good job on transparency, and I would ask the finance committee to consider different ways of presenting budgets to our citizens. There are free services offered by the state to support this effort. Budget work will become more critical in these inflationary times.

—Jeremy Rawitz

# Town Elections - Candidate Forum

## Roger Tryon-Finance

**Village Culvert:** Route 23 is a state road. In Monterey, we have chosen to maintain our portion of it. To the east and west of us, it is taken care of by the state completely. If it looks like we are not going to receive financial help to replace the culvert, we could consider giving up caring for the road and return it to the state. Some townspeople may be wondering why we are maintaining it anyway. There's a lot of talk right now statewide and nationally about increasing funding for infrastructure repairs, so it seems that this project could likely be included in that spending.

**Financial Overview:** As a finance committee member, I would advocate that municipal vehicles, equipment, and other items that need to be replaced on a regular basis be paid for at the time of purchase rather than bought on credit. The new transfer station and replacing the village culvert are long-term obligations, and borrowing is a reasonable approach for these types of expenditures. However, we might keep in mind that municipal budgets, like our own personal budgets, are not healthy when we take on too much debt. Clearly, the affordability impact of real estate taxes varies considerably based on household income. So it is difficult to make a general statement in response to this question.

**PILOT Program:** To my knowledge, a Payment in Lieu of Taxes program is not being discussed for Monterey, and the townspeople have not expressed a significant interest in the idea. I would not be inclined to initiate a proposal for this as a finance committee member.

**Emergency Services:** As a finance committee member, I would want an accounting of the number of calls our emergency service workers respond to out of town, the amount of help we receive from neighboring towns, and the compensation involved. I would also like to better understand the need to pay our fire personnel for sleeping overnight at the fire station. Then we could move forward with a financial plan for our emergency services.

**Short-Term Rentals:** Property owners in Monterey have always allowed visitors and other people to use their homes, with financial compensation sometimes a part of that. Many folks rely on this compensation, or at least have planned on it as part of their homeownership budgets. My hope is that, as the supply of short-term rentals goes up, rates will drop to the point that homes in Monterey will not be purchased solely as a commercial venture.

**Monterey School House:** This is where I spent first, second, and third grades. What memories! As the school house falls into disrepair, we will eventually need to make some decisions. One possibility would be to remove the building and keep the land for a future municipal use. Meanwhile, the area could serve as a park. It's a nice location, sunny and elevated well above the road. I look forward to hearing the views of the townspeople on this matter.

**Gravel Versus Paved Roads:** I treasure our gravel roads for their scenic beauty and natural landscape features. They have always been an important part of the character of our town. The traffic is slower on these roads, and they are often shared by non-motorists. Many of our gravel roads have one-lane bridges, so it's important to keep them narrow and the speed down. Recently, a concern has been raised about the cost of maintaining these roads. If better quality gravel were used, this cost could be lowered considerably over time. This is the direction I think we should go. I look forward to hearing the views of the townspeople on this matter as well.

—Roger Tryon

## 175th Memorial Day Parade

Please join us on Monday, May 30, in the center of town for Monterey's Memorial Day Parade. The parade will begin marching at 1 p.m., at the intersection of Main Road and Sandisfield Road. It will stop in the center of Town for a short ceremony, and continue up to the fire station. After the parade, volunteers from Hume will serve hot dogs, sodas, and ice cream provided by the town. We'll gather for an aerial photograph of the townspeople to be taken behind the fire station.

The parade will memorialize the military personnel who have died while serving in the United States armed forces. It will be extra special this year as it is the 175th anniversary of the establishment of the Town of Monterey. If you or a group would like to join the parade, please reach out to Ilene Marcus (ilene@ilenemarcus.com) of the parade committee.

Earlier in the day, at 10:30 a.m., there will be an observance at Veterans Memorial Park at the intersection of Main Road and Blue Hill Road. The service will include a salute, a flag raising, and a few brief speakers.

—Justin Makuc


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## 175th Memorial Day Parade
### Tell Me You're Marching!

It is time to commit—join the Monterey Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 30. Read about the fun planned at left.

The current plan is to gather by the community center at 12:30 p.m. Then at 1 p.m, we will proudly march through downtown on Main Street.

It's your chance to walk down Main Street or be driven in style to celebrate our town.

If you have a float, a tractor, or a group that wants to march and celebrate, email us and we will tell you the details. It's so easy!

To facilitate participation please provide the following details:

1. Name you would like in parade program

2. Description of your group (such as float with flowers; bears gone wild; Friends of Lake Garfield homeowners)

3. If you have an idea or a tractor or an old car we can use and just need to know how to connect to us, do so.

Email us at Montereyis175@gmail.com, or call Ilene Marcus at (917) 626-9616.

Don't let the parade pass you by!

—Ilene Marcus and Tom Sawyer
Monterey 175th Parade Committee

## This Issue and Next

As editor, I am continually surprised and pleased with the range of submissions to the paper. I tell folks that I think of the *Monterey News* as a journal of a small town, not so much a newspaper.

But this month there is a lot of "news" centered around town meeting and upcoming elections. However, a considerable body of excellent essays were also submitted. The largest issue we can publish is thirty-two pages, constrained by the cost of mailing.

So for June readers can look forward to:

- A remarkably educational essay about a trip to The National Memorial for Peace and Justice Museum in Montgomery, Alabama by Lin Saberski;
- A spontaneous trip to view sandhill cranes in Nebraska by Rob and Cindy Hoogs;
- A very informative article about the monthly Parkinson's support group written with support from Richard Pargament by Bob Cutick;
- In "Not-so-regal Bald Eagle," by George Emmons, you'll learn about bald eagle behaviors that don't generate much praise;
- And perhaps an essay on cowbirds by Bonner McAllester.

The June issue is sure to be an interesting one.

—Stephen Moore, editor

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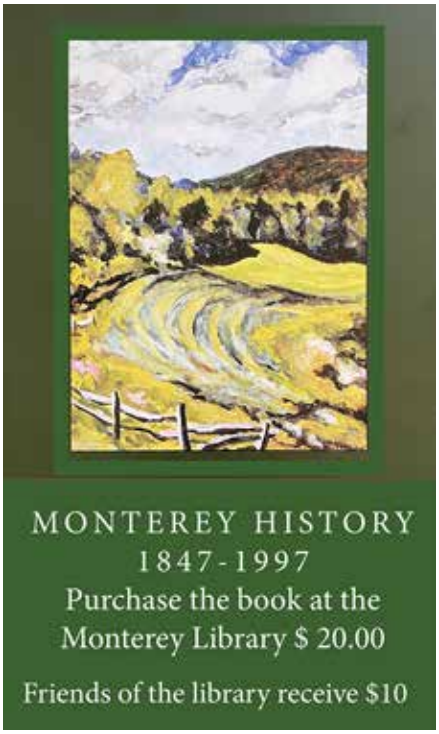

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## Council on Aging
### Moving into Spring

If you are signed up to receive emails from the council on aging, you will shortly receive our brief survey seeking input on your preferences for CoA events. We will also place hard copies of the survey at the library circulation desk and inside the community center. If you don't receive or see a copy, and would like to participate, please contact Emily Hadsell to share your email and request a link. We want to hear from you! (Contact information at the end).

**Lunch:** Our first major CoA event of the season will be a "Grab N' Stay" lunch on Thursday, May 26, at 12:30 p.m., at the firehouse pavilion. We will have a speaker addressing current email and telephone fraud schemes and how to protect yourself from scammers. The speaker will also talk a bit about Medicare. We will also be able to share more information on upcoming CoA events and ideas. It would be helpful if people would register by May 18. Contact Emily Hadsell (contact info at the end.)

**"Making Choices as Life Changes" series:** The CoA is sponsoring a new series of talks called "Making Choices as Life Changes," in collaboration with Sandisfield. The first session was held on April 28 at the Sandisfield Town Hall and addressed advance directives. The next is the showing of a film entitled *Living While Dying*. The Hospice Care in the Berkshires chaplin, Quentin Chen, will lead a discussion following the film, which will be shown at the Monterey Library, on Thursday, May 12, beginning at 1:30 p.m. For information about either of these events, please contact our outreach worker, Emily, at the email or telephone given above.

**Annual Elder Law Lecture:** This is sponsored by the Massachusetts Bar Association and will be held on Thursday, June 9, from 3:30 to 5 p.m., at the Monterey Community Center. Come hear trusts and estates attorney Paula Almgren talk about how to plan ahead and know your options for estate planning and long term care. Please contact Emily at the email or number provided above to confirm your attendance.

As you read this you may be thinking you are not interested in hearing about end -of-life challenges. The CoA understands that programming on this topic is not for everyone in Monterey who is sixty and older. Many of our seniors are skiers and bikers and gardeners and tennis players who have active social lives as well. But some of us can benefit from information addressing age-related needs and changes. The CoA's goal as a town council is to provide information and activities relevant to a diverse community of seniors, which we certainly are. If you want to help shape our future and define our mission, track down that survey and make sure it gets to us!

Our outreach worker, Emily Hadsell, is available in her office from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Call her at (413) 528-1443, ext. 112, or email caooutreach@gmail.com, with any questions.

—Lin Saberski
Acting Chair, CoA

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## Monterey Community Center

**Meditation session** with Sandrine Harris has a scheduled for the first Friday in May, May 6, at 4 p.m.

**Bridge** will hopefully be restarting on Tuesdays and perhaps Fridays.

**Pitch** is also slated for a comeback on Tuesday afternoons.

**Darn Yarners** met in April and seven folks showed up.The next gathering will be on Thursday, May 5, at 10 a.m.

**Chair yoga** with Connie Wilson will be in the library in May. The library has generously hosted the group for many months now, through the fall and winter.

As soon as the tent is up, but probably not before, we will have tai chi again. The tent is due up by June 1.

We are also looking into *plein air* painting and a posture class. We will have the times and the names of the instructors by the June issue of the *Monterey News*.

We are very pleased to announce that Catherine Hurst, who settled on Fairview Road a year ago with her family, has agreed to become a member of the MCC town committee. Catherine is volunteering to do some crafts under the tent. She has already provided crafts at Winterfest, plus wreath-making at the start of winter, and she is promising to help us make gingerbread houses in December. She has a lot of enthusiasm and talents to share with us.

In closing, we are grateful for Tasja Keetman sharing her spring-themed artwork for the Dignity Talk poster and our calendar for April. This lovely calendar which is posted around town was designed by the Art Department at Mount Everett High School when a graphic design class reached out to the community to offer their talents.

If you want to lead a class or take a class or have any questions about the community center, please call (413) 528-3600 and leave a message, or email calendar@ccmonterey.org. You can check the calendar at ccmonterey.org/calendar.

Looking forward to seeing you at the parade on May 30. If you would like to help with the MCC float, please let me know.

—Mary Makuc
Community Center Coordinator

## Bidwell House Museum

The birds are singing, the sun is shining and flowers are beginning to appear, it must be May in the Berkshires! At the Bidwell House Museum we have been working through the winter and spring on the plans for our 2022 season and we are thrilled to announce that guided tours of the house will begin on our traditional opening date of Memorial Day. The museum had to make a lot of changes to the schedule in 2020 and 2021, and we could not be happier to plan for a full season of activities this year. As in 2021, all tours of the house are now by appointment only and tours must be booked twenty-four hours in advance. For more information and instructions on how to book, head to our website bidwellhousemuseum.org, and click on "Plan your visit."

### Season Opening Concert

On Sunday, May 29, at 2 p.m., we are very happy to welcome Diane Taraz back to the Bidwell House for our 2022 season opening concert. Ms. Taraz has helped usher in the museum's summer season for many years, but this is her first in-person performance at the museum since 2019. This year she will be sharing a new show titled "No Such Thing as Idle Hands: The History of Women's Work." Follow along as she explores the amazing number of things women used to have to know how to do to keep their families alive. Through folk songs and a popular book published by Lydia Child in 1823, *The American Frugal Housewife*, we consider cooking, brewing, baking, cheese-making, personal care (including advice to wash your hair in New England rum), remedies for ailments (including quincy, dropsy, and piles), soap-making, laundering, and fabric arts. Taraz accompanies her crystal-clear singing on instruments appropriate to the era of each song. There will be a small reception after the concert. This event is free for members and $15 for non-members. Pre-registration on our website is required to attend.

### Programs and History Talks

We have some great programs planned in May and June. First, on Saturday, May 21, at 4 p.m., we are hosting a Zoom lecture with Nicholas Booth to discuss his book *The Thieves of Threadneedle Street*. Those of you familiar with our Bidwell Lore email series may remember a series we shared earlier this year about George and Austin Bidwell and their brazen theft from the Bank of England in the late 19th century. In *The Thieves of Threadneedle Street*, author Nicholas Booth wrote about that very crime and shares with us the amazing details of this story. This lecture will be presented via Zoom and pre-registration is required. The Zoom link for the event will be sent a couple of days in advance.

In June we have two great programs planned, including our first history talk on Saturday, June 4, at 11 a.m. Professor Robert Allison of Suffolk University will tell the interesting narrative of Olaudah Equiano in a talk at the Tyringham Union Church. Then on Saturday, June 25, from noon to 4 p.m., the Bidwell Country Fair will return for the first time since 2019. Not only are we excited to bring this free, fun, family event back to Monterey, but we are also delighted that the fair will be part of Monterey's 175th Anniversary Celebration.

Details for all May and June events will be up on the museum's website. The history talk lecture series is supported by grants from the Monterey, Tyringham, and Sandisfield Cultural Councils, and the Bidwell Country Fair is supported in part by grants from the Monterey, Tyringham, and Otis Cultural Councils.

### Gardening Volunteers Needed

Finally, do you enjoy the beautiful Bidwell gardens? Do you like working outside? We are looking for summer garden volunteers to work with the crew from Gardens of the Goddess this summer. Even if you only have any hour or two to spare each week, or can only help out a few times this summer, we would love to have you. Email the museum at bidwellhouse@gmail.com for more information.

The Bidwell House Museum is located at 100 Art School Road and the museum grounds—192 acres of woods, fields, historic stone walls, trails and picnic sites—are open all year free of charge. The program of events can be found on the museum's website at bidwellhousemuseum.org.

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Director

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# History of Monterey at 175
## A Treasure Hunt through "Monterey's Attic"

The Monterey Historical Society and the Bidwell House Museum are collaborating to present an historical exhibit—"Monterey's Attic"—during the month of July in the Monterey Library's multipurpose room.

***Monterey is 175***

**WE WANT YOU!**

**(At least what's in your Attic)**

Help us showcase Monterey's Heritage. Share your old photographs, posters, paintings, documents, and other Monterey memorabilia – and the stories that go with them. All originals will be returned after the July exhibit.

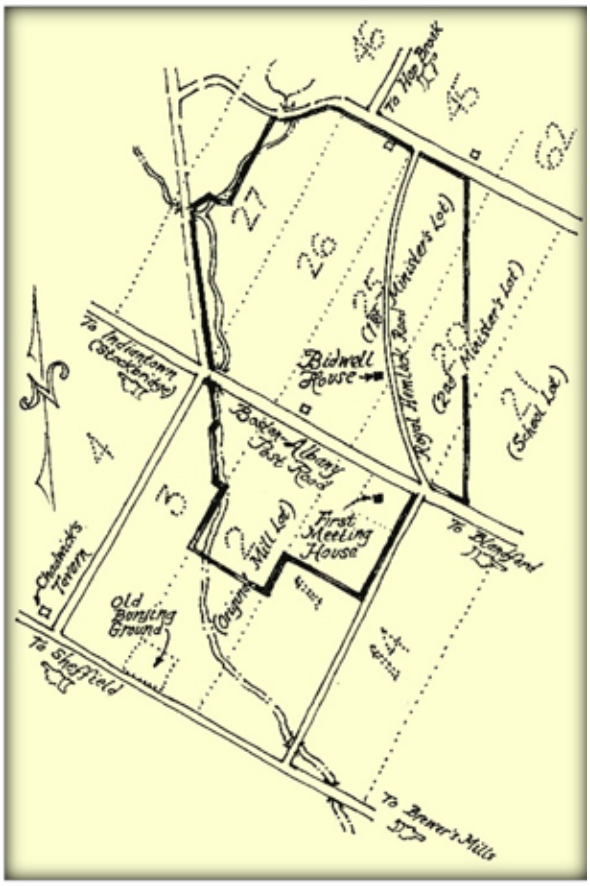
Contact Rob Hoogs rhoogs@verizon.net.

A highlight of the exhibit will be the 1997 quilt made by the Piecemakers and the unveiling of their new quilt. We've also received some great offers of memorabilia from townsfolk for the exhibit, including old photographs and art work, posters for the 1980s Monterey (MA) Jazz Festival, a 1972 first edition of the *Monterey News*, the candy display case from the Monterey General Store during the 1930s-60s and more.

Please look in your attics and send us a photo and a brief description of what you have that we could display, and, most importantly, the story that goes with the object.

Now, we continue to recount some of the history of Township No. 1, chartered in 1737 and settled by colonists starting in 1739, incorporated as Tyringham in 1762, and the separate Town of Monterey in 1847. This history is extracted from a booklet published for Monterey's 100th anniversary in 1947.

"In common with the other communities of the Housatonic Valley, the early settlers of [Township No. 1] South Tyringham followed a pattern of clearing the higher fields and elevated sites, first. The valley bottoms, fertile as they proved later to be, were, in the beginning, over-grown with such thickets and swamps as to make even these hardworking and indomitable men take pause. For that reason, the original site of Monterey—known as the "Old Center" was on the elevation of hills to the north of the present town." *[Note: What we now call the "Old Center" was actually the Second Center. The "First Center" was a half-mile north, centered around the First Meeting House and First Minister's House along the Old Post Road, now Art School Road, and an abandoned section through the Bidwell House Museum property and Beartown State Forest. See thumbnail map of the First Center. The Second Meeting House was built in 1798 along Beartown Mountain Road opposite Fairview Road which became the "Old Center." More about this in a later article.]*




*Map of First Center of Township No. 1, by Rob Hoogs, 2013*

During the 1740s, "other families came trickling in slowly over the rutted, tree-bound Post Road. But for several years, there was an air of uncertainty, a feeling of impermanence about South Tyringham. The meeting house, for which the settlers had been taxed, was only partially built. This section of the Berkshires was border country between the greater civilization to the East, and the dark, bloody, and fearful events of the French War which were taking place to the north and west. Trappers, rangers, friendly Indians, brought fearsome reports to the new little towns, and two* of the houses built then were virtual fortifications." *[Note: *Actually three homes were fortified: The proprietors on August 2,1744 voted "sixty seven pounds old tenor granted to fortify sd township be equally distributed toward building three forts in said Township one at the dwelling house of Mr John Brewer, one at the dwelling house of Mr Thos Slaton, one at the dwelling house of Mr Josiah Watkin for the use and benefit of said Proprietor or Inhabitants." The original fortified Brewer house site is located on top of knoll in a hay field south of Main Road diagonally across from the later Brewer house.]*

>

After the "Indian scare" of the 1740s passed, "men could breathe more easily. Law and order, they felt, would be moving into the land. The meeting house was finished, and was used as a place of worship for thirty-five years, under the pastorate of the Reverend Adonijah Bidwell, who was a graduate of Yale 1740 and in 1745 chaplain under Sir William Pepperell in his attack on Cape Breton. On September 25th, 1750 the church was organized and one week later the Rev. Adonijah Bidwell was ordained and became the pastor. The descendants of the Rev. Bidwell are widely scattered but one branch of the family still is represented in Monterey. Those of the family born here were Dr. Edwin C. Bidwell, O. B. Bidwell, Dr. John Welsh Bidwell, also the Rev. Josiah Brewer, who became the first missionary to Asiatic Turkey. M. S. Bidwell spent most of his life in Monterey and represented his district in the State Legislature."

We will continue Monterey's story next month. But in the meantime, please consider joining the Monterey Historical Society.

—Rob Hoogs

*Butterbread and Ting Ting*

## Letters

Dear Montereyans,

Lady V, Ting Ting, and Butterbread will soon be journeying, cloistered, from Minneapolis to Monterey; cramped in a repurposed dog crate crammed in the back of a Prius, planning to settle their feathers here around June 3. Fettered enough by the prospect of disruptive, over-land travel, they are considerably over-preening at the prospect of arriving coop-less; seems their caretakers (a Gould Farm ex-pat and her concerned husband) are unable to tow along the hen's current home.

So, at the squwaking behest of the brood, the caretakers are reaching out with hopes—perhaps some kind, hen-friendly soul knows of chicken housing at-the-ready, something that can be easily moved to Gould Farm (for one caretaker, the ex-pat, Melissa, is returning in June as Garden Manager). Please, if there are any uninhabited chicken coops for relocation or a handy builder able to assist, contact the other caretaker (Travis) by email (lexington125@zohomail.com). He'd like to tell the ladies all is well; a home awaits.

—Travis Lusk

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50 Pixley road
Great Barrington Ma. 01230
T.J. Harrigan
Owner

## Birds Birds Birds

### Continuing My Monterey Big Year

Like any true bird nerd, I search throughout Berkshire County for unusual birds. Last week, I stopped by Pontoosuc Lake to glimpse six cartoonishly-bold ruddy ducks with sky-blue bills, and a few weeks before I was lucky enough to view an elegant rare tundra swan on Onota Lake.

Some of you may know my red-headed daughter, Julia, who has autism. Early in the morning on Easter, I noticed a bald eagle, perched in a leafless maple. Try as she might, Julia just couldn't find the eagle through her binoculars. So, out came my scope. As she peered through the scope lens, she spotted it. Through it the eagle looked huge; she grinned ear-to-ear. She could easily describe the beak, the head, and the eyes. At age thirty-nine, it is still difficult for her to communicate, but her enthusiasm for birding is contagious.

There is something very satisfying about attempting a one-hundred species bird list in Monterey: to hike the habitat, meet the people, and experience the wildlife of your home place. People like Bonner McAllester, George Emmons, Janet Jensen, and Mary Kate Jordan understand this; I've just touched the surface.

So, I am grateful that David Blaskey allowed me to visit his feeders, see chipping sparrows, and add them to my list. Earlier in the month, I was pretty thrilled to see a pied-billed grebe on Stevens Lake. It is considered rare for Monterey, although they have been seen elsewhere in the county, and Sue Knoll was just as excited as I.

Then, Kate Ryan sent me a text nudge alerting me to ruby-crowned kinglets on Diane's trail. Julia and I were rewarded with their jumbled distinctive song.

This month I have added seventeen new species for a total of sixty-two different kinds of birds since January. Warbler migration begins in earnest, May 1-6, and continues for the entire month. I certainly hope to reach one hundred species by December 31. My list still lacks owls, bitterns, and falcons. If you want to help, please give me a call at (413) 645-2035, or email me pbanducci@gmail.com.

—Pauline Banducci

# Monterey News

## Annual Fund Appeal

Our thanks to all the folks who so quickly responded to our annual fund appeal. There's still time!

Amy Husten & James Haskin
Suzanne Hoppenstedt
Ron Gunther
Kirk & Connie Garber
Donna Brallier
David & Kathy Crowe
Delight & Paul Dodyk
Frank Gurtman
Richard Greene & Lindsay Crampton
Carole & Bob Hammer
Pauline & Richard Nault
Dede Loring
Philip & Marilyn Lombardo
Leslie & Curtis Paine
Carol & Don Welsch
Kay Purcell
Steve & Sally Pullen
Karen Selsky
Bob Rausch
Jon & Linda Schweitzer
Stephanie Sloane
Chuck Pierce & John Farrell
Peggy Reeves
Suzanne & Tom Sawyer
Steven Semaya
Karen & Peter Schulze
Rene Wood & Harold Sears
Sue Cohen
Gillian & T.J. Harrigan-Wells
Mitchie Takeuchi
Ira & Robyn Transport
Don & Erica Stern
Evelyn Semaya
Clint & Peg Burt
Susan Cooper & David Myers
Gail Heath
Linda & Ken Fass
David Emmel
Judy Kaminstein
Mickey Jervas
Ellen Kurtz
George & Eleanor Munson
Christa & Ian Lindsay
Peter & Susan LeProvost
Joyce Lebewohl
Judy Kales
Seth Kershner
Robert Kuhner
Jane & Charles Johnson
John & Lynne Gardner
Joe & Rhonda Daponte
Greg Carnese
Linda Hebert
Cos & Margery Spagnoletti
Andrew Somers
Amos & Andrea Neufeld
Mary McGoff & Maricela Salas
Leslie & Richard Roth
Sharon Rosenberg
Brenda & Joe Menker
John & Cynthia Makuc
Julie & Jim Johnston
William Enlund
Francine Eget
George Emmons
Allan Dean & Julie Shapiro
George Crocco
Bill & Carol Ban
Wendy Benjamin & Mayra Rodriguez
Joan & Mark Abramowitz
Margy & Frank Abbott
William D Bell
Jim & Carol Edelman
Bonsai Cox
Louis & Claire Rigali
Stacy Wallach & Jennifer Kay
Elizabeth Wool
Jan & Cliff Aerie
Everett & MaryAnn Fennelly
Steven Weisz
Donna Conforti & Paul Rissman
Karin Moskal
Nancy Monk
Sue & Phil Knoll
Malcolm Griggs
Susan E Clapp
The Bidwell House Museum
Linda & John Clarke
Don & Maggie Barkin
Barbara Wolinsky
Rodney Palmer
Lee Myers
Peter Lauritzen
Becky Friedman & Adam Lichstein
Susan & Norman Ladov
Marie Bidwell Leuchs
Ann & Alvin Richmond
Lauren Paul
Chris Blair & Karen Shreefter
Sandra Preston
Jeffrey Szanto
Jeanne Schroeder
Edward & Perrin Stein
David & Gerry Shapiro
Katharine Walker & Russ Breeden
Wayne Dunlop & Bridget Von Jeetze
Roy Gottlieb & Laura Hays
Liz Goodman
Pauline & Henry Goldberg
Joe & Kyp Wasiuk
Marc & Madeleine Holzer
Mark & Sue Hariton
Barbara Gauthier
Janet Garber Check
Susan Crofut & Ben Luxon
Norma Champigny
Phyllis Cash
Larry & Jane Burke
Steven Borns
Michael & Maureen Banner
Stella Bodnar
Charles Adams
Robert & Janice Adams
Liz & Grant Sorlie
Richard Sorlie
Carl & Elise Hartman
Barbara Adams
Arlen & Jane Gelbard
Maureen Haugh
Rosalind Kaufman
Ricki Long & Walter Corwin
Michael Zisser & Marsha Morton
Jim & Elaine Mazza
Carol & Alfred Landess
Peter Heller
Alan Klingenstein
Sharon & Steve Singer
Evelyn Sun & Michael Solomon
Mel Hochstetter
Gene Bounous
Rosanna Murray & Liz Sanchez
Marie Maxwell
Nancy Kalodner
Joel Schick
Maureen Regan
Janet & Marty Feldman
Paul DePreter
Jerrold Raab
Elizabeth & Michael Germain
Kathryn & Marc Roberts
Richard Pargament
Tim Lovett
Ken Kahn
Michael Wilcox
Scott Jervas
Carol Smoler
Cathy & Buddy Rodgers
Roger Kane
Monica & David Dixon
Joanne O'Connell
Karen Belfer
Anonymous

Catherine Hurst

*Nadia Makuc, who was the inspiration for the various 175th anniversary events, got up to speak. "I don't think I really have much to say, but..."—she found plenty. She spoke about growing up in town, her sense of belonging, and how young people can make things happen if they wish.*

## 175th Anniversary Potluck

We were very excited to help with the potluck on April 12 at the firehouse. This date was exactly 175 years from our town's date of incorporation. Unfortunately, the folks with the fire company could not attend as they had a mandatory training in Sandisfield that night. Those who did attend numbered about 10% of our year-round population. Each neighborhood and corner of Monterey was represented. It reminded some of the cozy potlucks in the basement of the UCC Church that had been held monthly for years, prior to Covid. The garage doors were opened and the fire trucks were parked outside. Tables were set up with mason jars holding bouquets of flowers brought by Catherine Hurst, and jars with votive candles. The Bidwell House Museum loaned some pretty tablecloths. Joe Baker and Bonner McAllester played folk music as we gathered and stood in line for the food everyone had contributed. Virgil Stucker gave a brief nonsectarian blessing and a little later Bonner read Peter Murkett's essay on why we were celebrating the 175th. Why do we care to do this? He pondered. We were looking at what was good and what was right about Monterey, caring and kindness. Peter's essay, "Big Fish, Little Pond," is on page 26.

—Mary Makuc

**Monterey is 175!**
We've only just begun...
1847-2022

**SAVE THE DATES**

**Monday, May 30th**
Memorial Day Parade
**Saturday, June 25th**
Bidwell House Museum Country Fair
**Saturday, July 30th**
Book Sale & Steak Roast
**Friday, August 5th**
Community Contra Dance
**Saturday, August 6th**
Lake Fest

## 175th Commemorative Book
### Recipes Requested

The 175th Commemorative Anniversary Book will highlight many of the incredible elements of Monterey, including our food traditions and stories. Do you have a special dish that has a strong tie to our town? It could be a recipe you got from a neighbor, or one that has been passed down for generations, or using locally grown food. Recipe submissions should be no more than one page and please include the source of the recipe and your Monterey-related story about it in seventy-five words or less.

Please send your submissions to montereybook175@gmail.com.

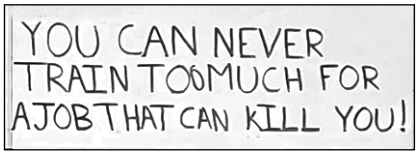
Thank you!

—175th Commemorative Anniversary Book Editors: Cynthia Makuc, Lisa Gelbard LePack, Aldeth Lewin, Carey Vella

## Renewable Energy Working Group

As we continue to explore the potential for renewable energy generation in town, we want to share the experience of some half-dozen or more Monterey residents who have already installed solar panels for their homes. So many options: panels mounted on a rooftop in a fixed array; ground-mounted panels at variable pitch, adjusted seasonally by hand; trackers, which use an electric motor to keep the array facing directly into the sun all day long. We're currently planning a "Solar Supper" where townspeople will talk about their choices, system performance, incentives, and other details. Who knows? Some folks may attempt to answer the age-old question: How does it feel to make electricity directly from the sun, with no moving parts? Look for an announcement soon.

—Peter Murkett, Chairperson
Monterey Renewable Energy
Working Group




*A training reminder on a sign board in the firehouse.*

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# Big Fish, Small Pond

*Editor's Note: This was written for, and read aloud at, the April 12 potluck to celebrate 175 years since Monterey incorporation.*

On this day 175 years ago, the town of Monterey was incorporated in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. As we gather to mark this anniversary, at a moment when the world is on fire from top to bottom, figuratively and literally, what shall a roomful of people residing in a named, incorporated micro-polity celebrate? Who do we think we are? Why throw a birthday party for a town?

Rather than trying to answer momentous questions head-on, let's wander around a bit to get our bearings.

Consider the words "big fish, small pond." They can be used to cut a person down to size—a smart person, say, unfortunately tainted by arrogance, or a habit of preening. Hear the razor-sharp sarcasm: "My my! Isn't he the big fish in a small pond?" The cutting remark confines the fish, no matter how big he (she?) may seem, to a little pond, swimming in circles like a prisoner pacing his cell.

Contempt and derision have a certain appeal, but their perverse satisfactions suggest that they are best enjoyed privately. Mean speech already metastasizes at lightning speed in our algorithmic world. No point in helping it along at a community supper.

No, what I like about Big Fish, Small Pond is not hostile usage, but the way it indicates that size, or power, is relative, that there are always bigger fish in larger ponds, gobbling up ever more smaller fish. Size matters, but it is never conclusive.

Four simple words, and so much to think about. The predatory order, for one. Small fish may cooperate—if the term is not too anthropomorphic—swimming in schools to make the best of their bad situation, saving many fish lives at the expense of a few.

I'm exploiting a metaphor, of course. Word play. We are not speaking directly of humans, towns, history. Millennia of millennia have passed since we were any sort of fish, and here we are, apex predators, marking territories, drawing lines not to be crossed without consequences. We are dominant over the globe; the greatest threat to humans is humans—the Others, that is, not Us—as in a pond with fishes, where the large ones eat littler ones.

But forget fish; consider the pond. The shoreline is its boundary, a line that separates pond from not-pond, although there may be streams that flow into or out of the pond, also springs on the bottom, under the surface, quietly filling the pond. And rain, which fills a pond from the sky. If there are shallows, part of a pond may be more like a swamp. Then where is the shoreline? A pond is always interconnected with other waters across its obvious boundaries.

"No man is an island" is a reverse, land/water metaphor saying the same thing.

We are talking about ponds, not towns. Monterey, with fewer than a thousand residents, is a small town, but it contains a Massachusetts Great Pond, Lake Garfield. So we really cannot speak of our micro-polity as analogous to a small pond, although, like a pond, it is not only bounded and interconnected, beyond its bounds, to other towns and people (not fishes), but to the past as well, its history. Interconnected in time as well as place. We are throwing our little birthday party, now, in the same old place. Lake Garfield, once called Brewer Pond, after one of the first European-American families to live here, took its present name in 1881, when residents were moved by the assassination of US President James A. Garfield, a former Civil War general and Congressman who had a passing acquaintance with Monterey. Townspeople were likewise emotionally moved to name their town, new in 1847, after the locus of a battle in the US war with Mexico. The battle took place in Monterrey (two "r"s), which roughly translates as "king of the mountain," a Big Fish name to top them all.

To fill up our time-place-name capsule, we note that the river flowing from the Great Pond now called Lake Garfield far past the border of Monterey is named Konkapot, after the Mahican sachem who lived hereabouts in the eighteenth century, and whose people lived here for thousands of years before the great wave of Europeans broke over America, once called Turtle Island by Indigenous peoples. In the industrious nineteenth century, the Konkapot River was named Mill Brook on an authoritative map. Right in the present town center, the waterway was dammed up behind walls of stone hauled by teams of oxen, lifted and levered into place by cunning men and their brute labor to hold back the flow, then strategically release it over wheels powering machinery to make paper from trees in the factories of the O'Neill family. The downstream waters were surely a toxic mess back then, but this did not rise even to the level of an afterthought; work was done, a product made and sold. It was only after the People of the European Wave set up shop that Work was, well, revered, and became a dominant New England value.

We live in a new time of war. Ukrainian flags have appeared here and there around town, expressions of solidarity with a new David battling Goliath a world away in the name of self-governance, human rights, and so forth—certain timeless, inspirational ideals. The ancient story, of ideals mashed up in the jaws of war, recounted yet again.

In addition to outright, old-fashioned war between nations we also have its understudy, another form of toxic river, this one a flood of pervasive verbal and gestural hostility—among privileged (and disputatious) people in an era owned by the one percent. This is not unlike a former era of grotesque wealth disparity, a century or so in our past, when, as readers of the town's sesquicentennial history book know, a cross was burned by unidentified persons one night on the hill above the old schoolhouse. The event, as recalled by Shel Fenn, now gone, capped a controversy involving Barney Mirman, a Jewish butcher who sold meat from his wagon. There was a push to deny renewal of his slaughtering license. Prejudice, competition with the General Store, public health—who knows what forces propelled this infamous act? It was unlike war only in degree. *The Berkshire Courier* (June 3, 1926) noted that it "had the effect of startling the inhabitants of the village considerably." It remains a startling episode to this day, a painful historical fact. Who do we think we are?

Thus the whole world, and time out of mind, illuminated in four words: Big Fish,

Small Pond. The stubborn persistence of predation, the infinite relativity of size, which still matters.

Enough of meandering through time and place. Back to the question: What do we gather to celebrate?

After fifty years of making my home in Monterey, my conservative guess is that I have yet to meet 90% of the town's residents. We all go about our business, live our family and work lives. A few of us, on and off, join the effort to govern ourselves, make rules; a few more cast their ballots; we all talk over the issues; we all follow the rules, more or less; we raise and spend the money; things get done. When my wife and I bought land here in 1978, we lived happily for a period of years without electricity in our cabin-home heated by burning wood. No young couple would be allowed to do that today, a mere fifty years of rules later. Change is constant.

How shall we swim in our Small Pond? What is a Big Fish? Where is our shoreline?

My long, wandering train of thought comes to rest on a small bronze plaque honoring Walter Parks for his "42 years of postal service." The plaque, by the door into the post office, does not have a date locating those years on a timeline, but I well remember my visits to the PO when Walter was our unfailingly friendly, unassuming postmaster. He had a finely tuned sense of humor and a commonsense approach to bureaucratic rules. Like some operational wizard, he wrangled tedious forms and daily deadlines behind the window, and, whenever you appeared, he made you feel that he had only been waiting for your own particular visit, and a chance to help. This at a time when one might find, in the mailbox, a handwritten letter from a good friend or family member across the pond or across the country, pieces of paper saved for years afterward, cookies on the trail of a private timeline.

Walter Parks was the finest of fish, just as big as life itself in our small pond, predation be damned.

—Peter Murkett

## Remembrance
### Richard Edelstein, 90

Dr. Richard Edelstein passed away on March 24, 2022 in Lenox, MA. He was born on May 18, 1931 in Brooklyn, NY, the son of Samuel and Ida (Stelling) Edelstein. He married Patricia (Michaud) Edelstein in October of 1982 in Cold Spring, NY.

Richard graduated with distinction from Erasmus Hall High School in Brooklyn, NY in 1948. He went on to study at Cornell University on an academic scholarship, graduating in 1952. He served in the US Army during the Korean conflict as a corporal, and then with the Army Reserve until 1956. He attended The College of Medicine at George Washington University in Washington, DC, and received his degree in 1958. He spent his career working as a cardiologist in private practice at Nyack Hospital in Nyack, NY, where he established and led the coronary care unit. After retirement, Richard and Pat moved from Orangeburg, NY to Monterey, MA.

An active member of Hevreh in Great Barrington, MA, he was also a prize-winning photographer, a Scrabble champion, an astronomy hobbyist, and an accomplished ukulele player. He volunteered for many years as a docent at the American Museum of Natural History in Manhattan, and later was active with the Friends of Lake Garfield in Monterey.

Richard is survived by his daughter Roberta (Jim) Mulder, his son Steven (Amy) Edelstein, his daughter Rosalee (Ken) Opengart, his stepson William Michaud, his step-daughter Debra (Tony) Miller, and his first wife Miriam, who is the mother of his children. He also leaves behind five

grandchildren: Rebecca (Luke Santoro) Mulder, Stephanie (Andrew) Shay, and Zachary, Juliana, and Aliya Opengart. Just days before he passed, he became a great-grandfather with the birth of Benjamin Shay, which absolutely delighted him.

Richard was predeceased by his wife Patricia.

A graveside service will be held on Monday, May 9, 2022 at noon at Corashire Cemetery on Blue Hill Road in Monterey, MA where Richard will be laid to rest next to his beloved Patricia, followed by a celebration of his life at Koi on State Road in Great Barrington.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Richard's memory to the Lifelong Learners Fund at Hevreh, in care of Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230. To send remembrances to the family go to finnertyandstevens.com.

**MONTEREY UNITED**

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**Sunday Service · 9:30 a.m.**
**in the Meeting House**
**Elizabeth Goodman, Pastor**

**For Information and Assistance:**
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## April Wildlife: The Three Bears, and More

Right at the end of March, Mary Kate Jordan wrote of a lovely bird perched on the deck railing. She had looked it up and was just checking to see if it were reasonable to think it was a European starling, in winter plumage. The answer is a resounding, "Yes!" These are lovely birds, bejeweled, I have always thought.

Ed Salsitz on Beartown Mountain Road had twenty-five robins in the yard at once, a record there. And Steve Moore saw the Monterey black vultures when he was on his way to the dump. He wrote, "Nine of the fifteen were on one tall (tree) stem where the branches are broken off short, makes me think of climbing spikes on telephone poles." Ed Salstiz sent in a photo of turkey vultures on the same tree (below).

Steve Snyder wrote to tell of a bald eagle over the western end of Lake Garfield, diving from the air to catch fish right in the middle of a group of unconcerned mergansers. He also reported many male turkeys strutting in the woods and on the roads of Gould Farm. And in the settling ponds, or lagoons at Gould Farm, there have been four male wood ducks and one female.

In the bluebird department, we have news of some nesting at the Sawyers' place, and Maureen Banner has sent in another lovely portrait photograph (above right). Suzanne Sawyer also tells of the return of tree swallows and a pair of pileated woodpeckers demolishing a rotten stump in the yard.

Joe and Cora Baker go across the road and walk in the state forest. Lately they have seen geese on a small beaver pond, a towhee, and a phoebe. Also, a chipping sparrow, a myrtle warbler, and a veery. Around the homestead here we have many cowbirds, goldfinches, and flickers. There is at least one yellow-bellied sapsucker banging away on a piece of metal conduit on an electric pole just up the road, and a red-shouldered hawk over in the state forest.

In the way of mid-sized mammals, Karen Shreefter has seen a porcupine near the Corashire Cemetery, which is also near her house. She writes, "Oh, boy, dog stays in the house." Steve Snyder saw an otter trot across New Marlborough Road beyond the wooden bridge, and says there is a coyote hanging around the barn at Gould Farm, seen a couple of times. He has also seen a fat woodchuck, maybe inhabiting a culvert under Gould Road.

Steve Moore and Wendy Jensen have seen a pair of foxes in their field, at the far end, maybe the same ones they have seen before. One of them "had a very rounded belly . . . hoping we'll hear lots of little yippings down in the ravine again this summer."

April was the month of various eggs, including those of the "spongy moth," which Bonsai Cox found on a tree near Stevens Pond (above). This is the new name for a familiar moth whose caterpillars we know well. They can defoliate trees along the ridge tops, especially oaks, but the trees send out a new crop of leaves later in the summer and survive quite well. There is a vernal pool out back of the Sawyers' and Suzanne says there are "tons of frogs eggs" there. Here in our home garden there is a small stock tank set in the ground and we have both salamander and frog eggs in there this year.

Besides these smallest visitors, the Sawyers had a very big one, leaving clear tracks in the soft ground, six inches long and six inches wide, with claw marks showing out in front of the very human-looking five toe prints. Suzanne got out her ruler and took some great photographs.

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*Above: Suzanne Sawyer's bear print.*

Early in the month, the Schneidermans on Hupi Road were visited by three bears, repeatedly. Something about the family car attracted the bears and they managed to do damage to the dashboard and front seats. Though the folks were at home and made lots of noise, these bears came back again and again. The car alarm did not keep them away.

This same family of three, or one just like it (above), went to visit the Edelmans, also on Hupi, and took down the bird feeders. Carol says she was about out of birdseed anyway, getting ready to discontinue the service. Some days later, in mid-April, Lin Saberski wrote with photographs of a contented bear working over a dumpster near her house. The bear went around behind a shed and emerged dragging a big plastic bag full of garbage. This bag had been expertly extracted from a "secure container," heavy-duty rubber/plastic with a tight lid held on by a stout, fat, rubber bungee with metal hooks. Picking up the garbage later on and inspecting the "secure container," it still looked good, intact, and the lid in place (above). This was a professional removal, involving great strength, dexterity, and good motivation: high-class garbage. *(Editor's note: A friend recently mentioned that out west the forest service is having a difficult time designing bear-proof boxes that people can figure out how to open. Perhaps they'll enlist bears as instructors.)*

Steve Moore and Wendy Jensen also provide quality bear food, much of their compost coming from Hanna Jensen's bakery: fruit, eggshells, and more. They looked out the window and saw the three bears. Steve bided his time and got the perfect family portrait (at right). He writes, "They all appeared to be in fine fettle. Mama was just glistening. Beautiful."

Lin Howitt on Beartown Mountain Road was visited by "mama bear and two cubs, looking very much like the trio from last year—but this year looking bigger and fatter, thank goodness—the cubs were so small and thin last year, it was worrisome."

*Lin Saberski's bear vistor first checked out a construction dumpster.*

One last note on local bears comes from the Sawyers who were driving through Stockbridge on their way home from a seder in Lenox. There was "a big black bear walking on the sidewalk. He was across from the Red Lion. Big!"

That's the wild story, and thanks to all who have contributed to it.

—Bonner McAllester
(413) 528-9385, bonnermca@gmail.com

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## MontereyMA.gov

Our town website is a great way to access information about the town.

— Steven Weisz, Chair
John Weingold and Justin Makuc
Monterey Select Board
(steve@montereyma.gov)
(johnweingold@gmail.com)
(justin@montereyma.gov)

For general inquiries, please click "Contact Us" at montereyma.gov.

For agendas and links to watch public meetings of towns and boards, go to the town website (above), select the board or commission of interest, and choose "Agendas" or "Minutes." Links for online viewing are listed in the agendas.

You can also search YouTube.com for more recent meeting videos. Search "Monterey, MA Board & Committee Meetings" and click on videos.

## Skating Rink Take-Down

Another winter over, and the rink was put away. At the right is Steve Graves and Peter Poirier who lead the effort.

Below, left to right, are: Tom Sawyer, Justin Makuc, Steve Graves, Alex Regen, Michael Germain, Peter Poirier, Bob Cutick. (Couldn't get the name of the fellow on the far right.)

Missing from photo: Tom Mensi, Colleen Johnson.

Steve Graves

## Another Monterey Tag Sale

Once again, a mid-summer tag sale, to be held at the Monterey Community Center, is planned to support another worthy cause. This year it is to raise money to strengthen local environmental resilience by supporting native plants and the pollinators that feed on them.

We are counting on everyone to bring a treasure or a trinket to help us raise money that will go directly to the Monterey Native Plants Working Group.

So please start putting aside a few items. Look for more information in the June issue of the Monterey News. You can call me at (917) 446-9904 any time after 10 a.m. with any questions.

— Myrna Rosen

Bob Cutick

## Letters

### Appreciation for the Pantry

This is a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributes in any way to the Monterey Food Pantry.

An injury kept me out of work from August of 2021 until early April. We survived and thrived on fresh produce, designer cheeses, beans, pastas, milk, eggs, and various other staples from the Pantry Pickup.

I have volunteered as a delivery person for the food bank in the past and will gladly help out there again. Well done, Monterey!

Sincerely,

— Elizabeth Maschmeyer

## Join the Conservation Commission

The Monterey Conservation Commission is looking for individuals who would like to be appointed to the commission to help carry out our unfunded mandate of protecting our local rivers, streams, mountainsides, cold water fisheries, and general habitat from harm or destruction. We meet once a month. Interest in environmental regulations would be good. Training is available and recommended. Please send letters of interest to Conservation Commission, Attn: New Member, PO Box 308, Monterey, MA, 01245, or email christopher.blair3@gmail.com. You may also call Chris Blair during the week at (413) 528-4960 for more information.

— Chris Blair, Chair

## Project 351 Clothing Drive

Hi Monterey!

On April 8 our Project 351 clothing drive ended, and we are so thankful to everyone who donated! With all your efforts we were able to get dozens of items of clothing, enough to fill up five thirteen-gallon bags. Once again, thank you so much to everyone who donated clothing!

— Philip Enoch and Ben Vella,
Mount Everett eighth grade

## Calendar

MCC- Monterey Community Center

**Tuesdays:**

Chair yoga with Connie Wilson, 10 a.m., library.

Pitch card game resuming, 1 p.m. MCC.

**Saturdays:** Ping-pong, 2:30 p.m., MCC.

**Sundays:** Monterey softball begins again. Batting practice at 10, games begin at 10:30 as weather permits.

**Tuesday, May 3:** Budget information hearing, 6 p.m. See page 3.

**Thursday, May 5:** Darn Yarners, 10 a.m., MCC. See page 20.

**Friday, May 6:** Meditation with Sandrine Harris, 4 p.m., MCC. See page 20.

**Saturday, May 7:** Annual town meeting, 9:30 a.m., at the firehouse pavilion.

**Tuesday, May 10:** Town elections, noon to 7 p.m., town hall. See page 7.

**Thursday, May 12:** Council on Aging screening of "Living While Dying," with discussion following. 1:30 p.m., Monterey Library. See page 20.

**Sunday, May 14:** Fishing derby, 9 to 10:30. 240 Hatchery Road (River Road in Monterey.) Berkshire National Fish Hatchery.

**Saturday, May 21:** Bidwell Zoom lecture, author Nicholas Booth, *The Thieves of Threadneedle Street.*

**Thursday, May 26:** Council on Aging "Grab N' Stay" lunch, 12:30 p.m. See page 20.

**Sunday, May 29:** Bidwell season opening concert, 2 p.m. See page 21.

**Monday, May 30:** Memorial Day

Ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park, 10:30 a.m.

Parade on Main Road to fire station, 1 p.m. See page 18.

LinSaberski

## Council on Aging Services

**Wellness Clinic:** The wellness clinic will take place on Thursday, April 12, from 2 to 3 p.m. Appointments to take blood pressure and do an assessment are no longer necessary.

**Parkinson's Support Group:** This month's meeting is on Thursday, March 5, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Monterey Library. Call (413) 528-1443, ext. 247 if you'd like more information about the program.

**Transportation:** For seniors and people with disabilities. Trips to Great Barrington and Pittsfield. Call (413) 528-1881. Forty-eight-hours notice required to be sure of a ride.

**Foot Nurse:** Beverly Dunn is available for home visits. Call (413) 446-2469 to schedule an appointment. Council on aging covers $10 of her fee.

**Free Safety Vests:** Vests to ensure you are visible to car traffic are available in town hall for walkers and bikers through the council on aging.

**Saturday, June 4:** Bidwell history talk. Narrative of Olaudah Equiano. Tyringham Union Church, 11 a.m. See page 21.

**Thursday, June 9:** Elder Law lecture, 3:30 to 5 p.m., MCC. See page 20.

**Saturday, June 11:** Memorial service for Jack Ryder, 2 p.m., Corashire Cemetery, followed by a celebration 2:30 to 5:30 in Great Barrington. (More information in the June issue.)

**Saturday, June 25:** Bidwell Country Fair, noon to 4 p.m. See page 21.

## Police Emergency Contacts

- For real emergencies, call **911**.
- The email address for the dispatch service is:

**dispatch@sdb.state.ma.us.**

- Police dispatch service number:

**(413) 236-0925**.

- For non-emergencies to contact the Monterey Police Department, call:

**528-3211**

## Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may be sent via email to montereynews9@gmail.com or to PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. For advertising rates or other information, contact the Editor at (413)528-4007 or email.

## Town Contact Information

**Emergency! 911**

**Town Administrator:**
528-1443 x111
admin@montereyma.gov
(for town boards and misc. questions)

**Assessor:** 528-1443 x115
assessors@montereyma.gov

**Building Department:** 528-1443 x118 buildingsafety@montereyma.gov

**Community Center:** 528-3600
calendar@ccmonterey.org

**Fire Department** (non-emergency): 528-3136
chief@montereyma.org

**Highway Department:** 528-1734
dpw1@montereyma.gov

**Library:** 528-3795
montereylibrary@gmail.com

**Police Department** (non-emergency)**:** 528-3211, Alt./Emergency 528-3211
mpdchief@montereyma.gov

**Post Office:** 528-4670

**SBRSD** (Schools): (413)-229-8778

**Tax Collector:** 528-1443 x117
montereytax@yahoo.com
(for questions about your tax bill)

**Town Clerk:** 528-1443 x113
clerk@montereyma.gov

Town website: Montereyma.gov, under each department, for office hours.

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| | |
|---|---|
| Sunday | 10 a.m.–6 p.m. |
| Wednesday | 8 a.m.–1 p.m. |
| Saturday | 8 a.m.–1 p.m. |

## MONTEREY LIBRARY

Monday.....7–9 p.m.
Tuesday.....9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Wednesday.....9 a.m.–1 p.m.
.....& 1:30–5 p.m.
Thursday.....9 a.m.–1 p.m.
.....& 4–8 p.m.
Friday..... 4–8 p.m.
Saturday.....9 a.m.–1 p.m.
..... & 7–9 p.m.
Phone 528-3795
MontereyMassLibrary.org

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